

Cabinet determined not to give in to firemen's claim

The Cabinet decided yesterday not to relax the firm line taken by Mr Rees, Home Secretary, in face of the firemen's threatened national strike, due to start on Monday. Talks between the employers and the Fire Brigades Union will con-

tinue today. Ministers have made clear that they will be available over the weekend to make the most of any opportunity that may arise to settle the dispute over the firemen's claim for an outright 30 per cent wage rise.

Ministers await talks outcome

By Our Political Correspondent

The Cabinet decided yesterday after a two-and-a-half-hour session to maintain its firm line in the face of the possible consequences of a national strike by firemen from next Monday that the Government could do nothing at present to get a negotiated settlement. But it was made clear afterwards that ministers would be standing by during the weekend to make the most of any opportunity to get the strike called off.

Much of the Cabinet's time was spent discussing the deployment of the fire-fighting service to be provided by the Forces and the official advice that is to be offered by the Home Office.

Mr Rees, Home Secretary, who is in constant touch with officials organizing emergency action, may make a television address tonight, but a decision would be made late in the day "to see if there is a chance of light". The object was not to provoke more serious trouble.

Ministers have been heartened so far by the number of brigades that have said they will not strike. A firm line: After a fresh meeting between Mr Rees and both sides of the fire service's national joint council it was clear that the Government was holding fast to its firm line on firemen's pay (Ian Macintyre writes).

Mr Rees had seen Mr Tunnage, Fire Brigades Union general secretary, and Mr Brian Rushbridge, secretary of the employers' side of the council, for about an hour at the Home Office. Indications were that there had been little movement towards averting the strike.

The meeting came after talks, which are to continue today, between the employers and the union on a possible formula to regulate firemen's pay in future.

A commitment to finding such a formula is part of the employers' offer, along with a 10 per cent immediate pay increase and a progressive formula for the working week from next autumn.

It remained doubtful last night whether even broad agreement on a formula would be enough to avert a strike.

Training of men from all over the country continued at times throughout the country yesterday. The core of the Ministry of Defence's contingency plans are the 700

Home Office so-called "green goddess" fire appliances, mostly about 20 years old and designed for Civil Defence use. Although well maintained, they lack the high ladders and advanced turntable equipment of modern fire engines.

The Ministry of Defence declined to estimate the number of servicemen who would be deployed for fire-fighting, or whether troops would be brought back from abroad, but it is believed that about 11,000 men will be standing by.

Defence preparations: The Ministry of Defence is planning to send between 70 and 80 trained fire-fighters to Northern Ireland this weekend in preparation for next week's strike (our Defence Correspondent writes).

The men are mostly Royal Navy and RAF personnel who have specialized in fire fighting as part of their service training. This means that they have been trained by the fire service on special service courses and have some qualifications in the work.

It is expected that they will act as fire chiefs for army teams that may have to deal with dangerous fires in Belfast and Londonderry. The IRA decides to use incendiaries in the two main cities next week. It is hoped that part-time firemen in the rest of the province will work normally.

Army experts' view: It is still not clear whether men employed in the Army Fire Service will join the strike (the Press Association reports).

The service, which has 85 officers and 1,200 men, comprises civilians who are attached to certain army camps, particularly those where dangerous materials, such as ammunition, are stored. They are members of the Institute of Professional and Civil Servants and the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Mr William Haughton, chief fire officer of Oxfordshire, said the strike posed the most serious threat Britain had ever faced in peacetime. Mr Anthony Stockford, Oxfordshire representative of the FBU, said: "We know people are going to die and this is a terrible thing. I do not want to let people burn and it is tragic that things have come to this. I hope the strike can still be averted."

Mr Horace Carter, leader of the Greater London Council, said London faced a critical situation if the strike went ahead. All 11 London fire stations would cease operation.

Leader of power men admits defeat

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The power workers' dispute is virtually over, and last night Mr David Smith, leader of the rebels, said: "We have lost the battle and we should accept the fact. The public, the Government and the TUC are all against us."

However, today the 26 members of the national shop stewards committee will vote on a motion from its militant Yorkshire area for an all-out strike, a move that looks like a desperate effort to pump new life into a dying dispute.

Only three of the country's 137 stations were out of action yesterday: Elyth, Northumberland; Fiddler's Ferry, Cheshire; and Wylla, Anglesey.

But Thorpe Marsh, South Yorkshire; Ferrybridge C, West Yorkshire; and Drax, North Yorkshire, along with Shelton Grange, near Leeds, voted to go back. Those decisions were a serious blow to the Yorkshire stewards, who have led the dispute from the outset.

The Central Electricity Generating Board confirmed a return to work by the rebel workers throughout yesterday.

The Eggborough station in North Yorkshire is the only large station that has firmly supported the Yorkshire area's call for a total stoppage, but it is being operated by engineers and managers.

The Electricity Council said there had been some short blackouts yesterday and that it did not think there would need to be any today.

Thatcher protest over devolution tactics

By Fred Emery and
George Clark

The Government yesterday confirmed its shock tactics to force the Scottish and Welsh devolution Bills to immediate ratification next week, and the Conservatives affected great outrage.

It was totally unreasonable, a protest against the House, Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, protested to Mr Foot, Leader of the House. Her complaint was that Mr Foot was proposing to drop the Bill on the second reading of each Bill, next Monday and Tuesday, before dropping guillotine time-table motions on both on Wednesday.

In vain did Mr Francis Pym, Conservative spokesman for devolution and House of Commons affairs, appeal for one more day for each Bill. He suggested that there was no precedent for a constitutional Bill to be dealt with in that way. Mr Callaghan was not one either but he insisted that there would be time enough, apparently 30 days in all at committee and report stages for both Bills, with more time for Scotland than for Wales.

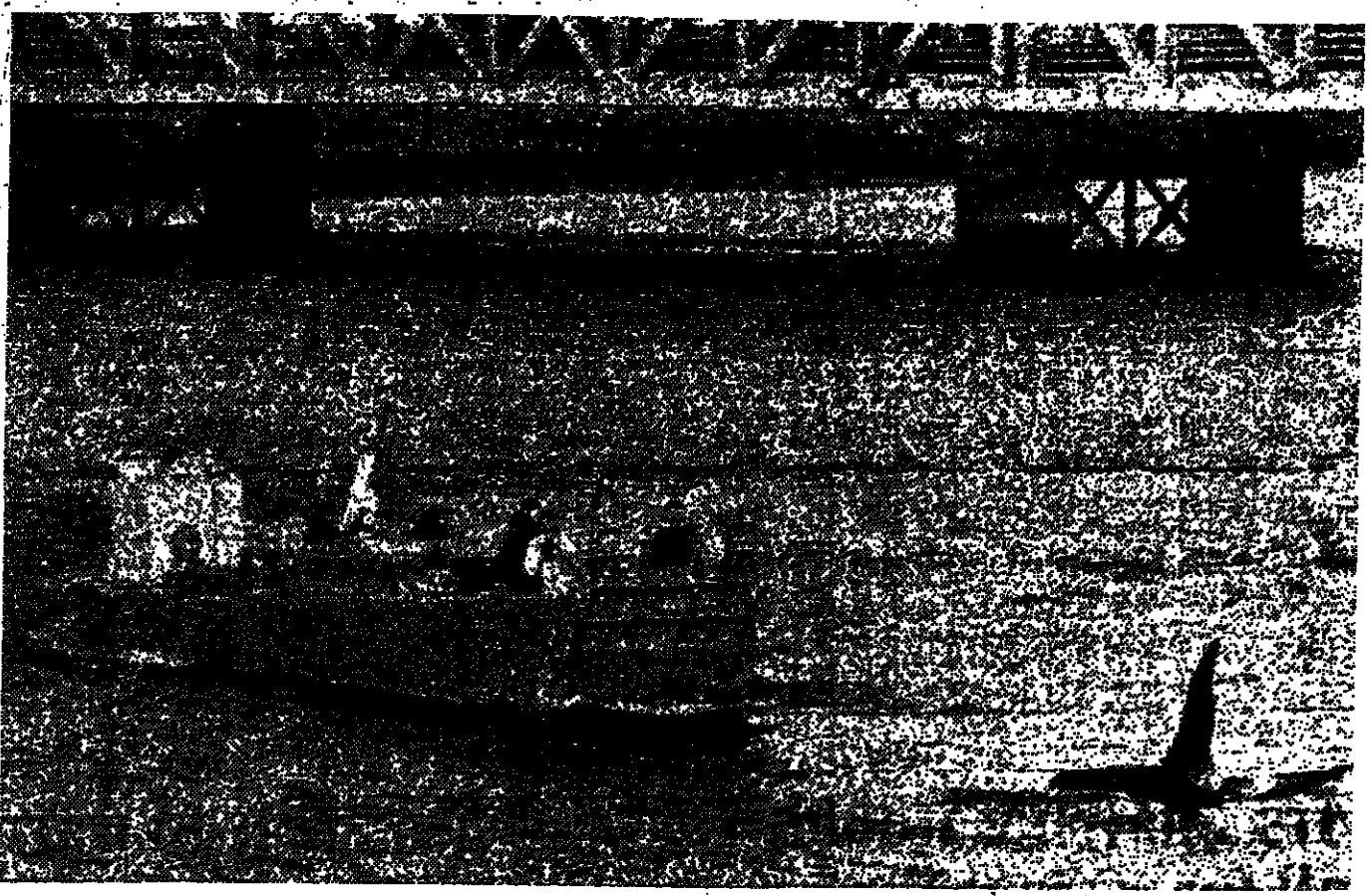
The furor in the Chamber was the facade for a great deal of rebellious conspiring. One evaded was: would the Prime Minister make the guillotine an issue of confidence and so bring his rebels into line? Even the toughest of Labour's anti-devolutionists suggested that his tally of 17 opponents, with more to come from a score of possible abstainers, might stall away into the government lobby if it was made an issue of confidence.

There were hints that Mr Callaghan would make clear how seriously he would regard a defeat for such an important piece of legislation. But, surprisingly, the two Bills and the guillotine were not mentioned at last night's meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, attended by about seventy backbenchers. Mr Callaghan was there in case anyone should raise these issues.

According to Mr Cledwyn Hughes, chairman of the party, Mrs Thatcher was looking forward to a good form. There was no mention of next week's crucial vote.

Mr Hughes offered his own explanation: "I understand that the whips are not showing any concern about the vote on this occasion; they are reasonably satisfied that the Government will win a respectable majority."

"There is no great head of steam on this at the moment. Confirmed on page 2, col 1



A British Army motor launch, with fishery officials on board, unsuccessfully trying to induce a whale to leave the Foyle at Londonderry, Northern Ireland, for the open sea. The whale, which has been nicknamed "Dopey Dick" and is believed to be ailing, did not seem anxious to pass under the Craigavon bridge. It has been in the river since Sunday.

Chancellor exultant over financial revival

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Healey was in buoyant mood, speaking of "the astonishing improvement in our financial situation" as he opened a debate in the Commons yesterday on the economic measures he introduced last month. Everything now was going for Britain if only fortitude in the fight against inflation could be maintained. He predicted "with confidence" that the rate of inflation would be brought down to 12 or 13 per cent by the end of the year and into single figures a few months later.

For the first time the Chancellor gave the House some firm predictions about unemployment trends over the coming months and years. Last month's measures, he said, should reduce unemployment by about 110,000 by the first quarter of 1979. But it was no longer possible to state with confidence the relationship between output and unemployment and he doubted whether the drop in unemployment last month would be continued.

He was prepared to predict that unemployment would begin to fall steadily next year, but he could not say in which month that fall would begin. If Britain could achieve a 3 per cent growth in gross domestic product next year he expected to see a slow and steady fall in unemployment after the usual time lag.

He hoped to be able to give a further stimulus to the economy in his Budget in the Spring, either by a further rise in tax thresholds or by the introduction of a reduced band of income tax.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, shadow Chancellor, showed only too clearly how concerned the Tory leader was about the improving prospects for the Government and the consequent harm to their electoral hopes.

His lack of material was soon evident as he continued the sterile argument that has been going on now for several days about the cost of living and its decline since the last general election. The argument is based on something that the Prime Minister did not say during his speech on the first day of the new session.

To argue about something that Mr Callaghan did say would be one thing, but for shadow chancellors to waste time complaining about something he did not say indicated that Sir Geoffrey was running out of economic weaponry.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Warmest since 1946 in London

Yesterday's maximum temperature of 18.2°C (64.8°F) was the highest November temperature recorded at the London weather centre since November 4, 1946, when it reached 19°C (66°F).

Forecasts, page 2

Mr Carter refuses to blame Israel for raid

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 10

President Carter refused this morning to blame Israel for its air attack on Palestinian targets in Lebanon yesterday. He told a press conference that the new outbreak of violence was of great concern to the American Government and showed the urgency of calling the Geneva Middle East peace conference.

He said that there would be no solution to the problem until the leaders of both sides went beyond procedural questions and agreed to sit down together to discuss the fundamental issues.

He welcomed President Sadat's statement in Cairo that he was determined to go to Geneva, or even Jerusalem, whatever the procedural difficulties. He said that he hoped that Jordan, Syria and Lebanon would quickly make a similar response.

Asked whether Israel's attack was justified, he replied that it was difficult for him to answer. The question was whether Israel could sit dormant and quiescent and accept repeated attacks on its border villages without retaliation, and whether the retaliation was excessive.

He said that some retaliation might be required but the overriding consideration was not to condemn Israel but to observe that if there had been no attacks there would have been no retaliation and that it was essential for the nations concerned to negotiate an end to the crisis.

Mr Carter was asked about the case of Mr Richard Helms, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who was recently let off with a \$2,000 fine (which his former colleagues paid for him) on charges of misleading Senate committees. The President said that Mr Helms's conviction "was not a badge of honour, and a public official does not have the right to lie."

He went on to explain that the Helms case was difficult because three different objectives had to be reconciled: the law had to be upheld, the trustfulness of witnesses to congressional committees had to be ensured and national security had to be protected. He said that the decision the Attorney-General took was the right one.

Mr Helms pleaded "no contest" to two minor charges when all others were dropped. His lawyer described the resulting sentence as "a badge of honour". The phrase has grated on many liberal sensibilities, but in the debate here on the matter, Mr Helms's friends are doing quite as well as his critics.

The friends contend that Mr Helms played by the rules as they were established in 1973, and that he should not be punished under a new set of rules. He was obeying orders.

Sadat speech response, page 9

Airport strike hits IATA

Madrid, Nov 10.—The Spanish Iberia Airlines made emergency plans today to fly out more than 300 aviation leaders and airline executives attending the annual meeting here of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) as Spain's 13,000 airport workers prepare to go on strike tomorrow.

After an unsuccessful last meeting with Señor José Lladó, the Transport Minister, union spokesmen said the three-day strike aimed at paralyzing all civilian air traffic was on.

Senior Manuel de Prado, IATA's president, who is also president of Iberia Airlines, told delegates that he has taken personal responsibility for getting them home.

The airport workers will strike in support of a minimum wage of £190 a month and supplementary pay dating back to June, which, they said, the Government granted but never paid.—UPI.

Mr Callaghan welcomes poll backing on pay aim

By Our Political Correspondent

An opinion poll indicating that the public is strongly hostile to unions and powerful groups trying to get wage increases above the Government's 10 per cent guideline was welcomed by the Prime Minister yesterday as "one of the most convincing and remarkable I have seen in many years".

If it is accurate, it showed that the overwhelming majority of the people did not want to see anything more than moderate wage and earnings increases in the present year, he told the Commons.

While he welcomed that, he thought it would be going to "create an atmosphere of tension with many groups, one of which will name, who are serious difficulties and 'unfair claims'".

The poll was made out by Opinion Research Centre, and the results were published yesterday. Interviews with a quota sample of 996 electors were

conducted on November 5 and 6.

People were asked whether they thought the Government's "battle to beat inflation" should be supported. The replies were: should, 87 per cent; don't know, 7 per cent; don't know, 6 per cent.

To the question, whether, in the event of a referendum, interviewees would vote for or against the Government's taking a strong line with powerful groups like the miners who tried to obtain increases above average, the replies were: for, 85 per cent; against, 9 per cent; don't know, 6 per cent.

Asked whether they would still be in favour of the Government's policy if it meant a miserable winter, with power cuts and perhaps a three-day week, the replies were: for, 85 per cent; against, 9 per cent; don't know, 6 per cent.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Tories relishing Government's coming troubles over EEC elections Bill

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The new, or recycled, European Assembly Elections Bill was published yesterday. It will be at the centre of action in the Commons this week, and next with the prospect of the same rapid-fire votes on second reading and guillotine motions that the Government intends next week for the Scotland and Wales Bills.

Conservatives, while refusing to commit themselves to a guillotine to speed the Bill on its way, are committed to direct European elections, but they are relishing a fierce conflict between the Government and its anti-European backbenchers.

The main feature of the Bill remains the choice between the "regional list" system, with its feature of a representation of the past the post system.

Both Government and the Opposition are allowing a free vote and the regional list proposal, which the Government purports to favour, is expected to be defeated.

The Liberals, whose demands for a crack at proportional representation are being accommodated, welcome the Bill. It is essentially the form that got a second reading last session. That was a virtual test run, and the Bill lapsed for want of time.

However, the Liberals will not be happy that the Government has still not decided how ministers will vote on the election method. Liberals believe that because the Government favours, and the Bill formally proposes as a first choice, the regional list system, the Cabinet ought to have the courage of its intentions, if not convictions.

But senior ministers say a free vote is indivisible; thus it is most unlikely that the Cabinet will be commanded to vote for proportional representation.

The Conservatives logically ought to vote for the guillotine timetable because they complain that time is running out if Britain's commitment to the election by the target date of next May is to be met.

But Mrs Thatcher, leader of the Opposition, now believes that there can be no election by the target date, whatever the method of election. She sees no point in helping the Government, especially when Mr Foot, the Leader of the House, has not even taken the first opportunity for debate, Monday, November 21. Instead, he has allocated that as the first day of supply for opposition time.

Mrs Thatcher believes there should be full debate on the election method before a guillotine; and that Mr Foot is most unlikely to allow.

The Government stands by its position that elections can be held next year, but only under the regional list system.

Present system praised, page 2

Rail fares to rise by 14.5% on January 1

All fares will go up by an average of 5 per cent from January 1 and by 15 per cent on commuter services in the southeast. There will also be above-average rises for high-speed trains. The Commission, which approved the rises, said it was concerned about the rise in commuter fares and would investigate them.

New ICI chairman

Maurice Hodgson has been named as the new chairman of ICI. He will replace Sir Ronald Wright next March at a salary of £93,508. Mr Hodgson, 59, will probably take home about £100,000 after tax. Sir Ronald, 62, has £600,000 after tax. Sir Ronald, 62, has £600,000 after tax for 21 years.

Lord Carver reports

Lord Carver returned to London yesterday to report on his Rhodesia mission. He denied he had been given "the brush-off" in his talks in Africa, and identified two areas of disagreement over the settlement plan. In Salisbury, celebrations have begun to mark the twelfth anniversary of Mr Smith's unilateral declaration of independence.

Kidnapping in Vienna

Kidnappers in Vienna seized Herr Walter Palmers, aged 74, whose family owns more than 100 clothes shops in Austria. A ransom of £1.5m was demanded. Police believe the gang are common criminals and not political terrorists. Herr Palmers suffers from a heart complaint.

Rare wine in US

About 500 bottles of French wines of the nineteenth century have been found in a cellar of an old mansion in Albany, capital of New York state. They are said to be in good condition and could be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Miners divided

Leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers are divided on how to proceed with their claim for a 90 per cent pay increase from November 1. They are also investigating possibilities for local productivity deals in areas that did not reject the idea in the recent ballot.

Publishing takeover

Trafalgar House, which recently bought Beaverbrook Newspapers, is expanding its publishing interest further with an agreed £20.5m takeover for magazine publishers Morgan-Grampian. The offer is conditional on there being no reference of the takeover to the Monopolies Commission.

General Synod: Delegates expressed solidarity with the Christian Institute, recently banned by the South African Government

Paris: French envoy to resume talks on hostages held in Western Sahara. Windhoek: South African troops kill 10 Namibian guerrillas near Angola border.

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Letters: On standing up to strikes, from Sir Kenneth Corley and the Reverend M. Eyles; on the devolution vote, from Mr George Cunningham, MP; and on mapping archaeological, from the Director General of the Ordnance Survey.

Light at Stratford-on-Avon: John Percival at the Royal Ballet

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Rugby Union: Peter West examines New Zealand's chances, against France; Cricket: Boycott is unanimously re-elected captain of Yorkshire.
Business News, pages 18-24
Stock markets: Shares gained ground and the FT Index closed at 4397.
Financial Editor: Real growth from Booms; W. H. Smith a Jubilee bonus.
Business features: Michael Posner contributes the final article in a series by leading economists on the implications for Britain of North Sea oil.
Business Diary: A smooth change at the top of ICI.

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HOME NEWS

Rail fares to rise by average of 14½ per cent in January but commuters in the South-east to pay more

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent
Commuters in the South-east will again bear the brunt of rail fare rises on January 1.

Their tickets will go up by an average of 15 per cent compared with 14½ per cent for all rail passengers.

However, the Price Commis-

sion, which yesterday announced approval for the rises after British Rail had argued that delay would adversely affect its finances, gave a warning that it was particularly concerned about the above-average increases in commuter fares, notably in the South-east, and said it would continue to investigate them.

"We shall be examining the efficiency of British Rail's passenger services and why the increases are weighted against commuters. As a result we may recommend that this should not happen in the future," the commission said.

No fare will rise by more than a fifth as a result of the commission's intervention. Fares on some inter-city routes where services have improved, such as those where high-speed trains are used, will go up by more than 14½ per cent.

British Rail promised yesterday to hold the January fare level for as long as possible, but gave no time limit. The rise had been contained as a result of the incomes policy, and productivity improvements of 5 per cent over the past year. But the rail unions are claiming substantially more than the 10 per cent recommended under phase three of the incomes policy from next spring. The last fare increase was an average of 12½ per cent last January, commuters in the south-east paying up to 16 per cent.

Last year's government con-

sultation document said the £80m loss on those services should be eliminated by 1981, necessitating rises of 7½ per cent on top of inflation until then. But the transport policy White Paper in June this year took a softer line, proposing that commuters should have a period of years in which to adjust to the rises.

Unless British Rail can get higher subsidies, which seems unlikely, it will always be tempted to look first to the commuters in the south-east for higher fares, because they are the nearest it has to captive customers.

COMMUTER FARES, SECOND CLASS (London and South-east)

	Day return	Weekly season	Monthly season	Quarterly season
London to:				
Birmingham	2.45	2.79	11.50	33.70
Brighton	2.85	3.18	12.40	37.10
Bristol	1.70	1.92	10.10	30.30
Cardiff	1.25	1.45	7.55	22.60
Edinburgh	1.86	2.12	10.50	31.50
Glasgow	1.80	2.02	10.10	30.30
Liverpool	1.80	2.02	10.10	30.30
Manchester	1.80	2.02	10.10	30.30
Newcastle	1.80	2.02	10.10	30.30
Norwich	1.80	2.02	10.10	30.30
Nottingham	1.80	2.02	10.10	30.30
Sheffield	1.80	2.02	10.10	30.30
York	1.80	2.02	10.10	30.30

† Economy return minimum fare of £6 applies.
Economy return minimum fare of £7 applies.

Mrs Thatcher would call for resignation

Continued from page 1

There are some, well at least two, who are still very much about the whole thing, but there is not the concerted, organized opposition there was last session.

It is not easy to judge whether the confidence of the Labour whips is justified in the absence of the imposition of the confidence issue. Mr Callaghan's friends believe the Prime Minister said it all in his party conference address at Brighton when he emphasized that the Cabinet would expect the Bills to be fully supported by members of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

It is precisely because that phrasing dodges the issue of the Government's survival that some of the Labour rebels believe they can get away with voting against the Government without bringing the Government down and without discipline for themselves.

Mrs Thatcher believes likewise. She holds Mr Callaghan not to be the resigning kind. Although she would call for his resignation if he lost a key vote next week, she will not follow it up with a no-confidence motion because she believes, doubtless rightly, that it would again fail.

A number of amendments have been tabled to the Scotland Bill. The Conservative Front Bench opposes the second reading, and calls instead for a con-

sultational conference to consider Scottish aspects and implications for the rest of the kingdom.

Mr Michael English, Labour MP for Nottingham, West, has tabled an instruction for the committee stage that the Bill be extended to England "for the purposes of creating an elected assembly in each economic planning region". If the confidence motion should be defeated Mr English's instruction would be debated next.

There are now more than 50 signatories to the amendment calling for a separate referendum for the Shetland Islands, originally tabled by Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool.

Mr Abse crossed swords with Mr Foot yesterday. He asked why Mr Foot was afraid of more debate and suggested that he was "totally failing in his duty as Leader of the House". When the Speaker ruled that cowardice was not proper, Mr Abse withdrew, after substituting "pusillanimity".

Mr Pym raised Labour hackles in suggesting that, whatever the Commons did, the "other place" might have "an awful lot of amendments" that the Commons might never debate.

Obviously Mr Foot responded to Labour growls that he hoped Mr Pym was "not going to threaten us" with the Lords. Parliamentary report, page 6

NUT denies change in Burnham

The National Union of Teachers denied yesterday that its representation on the Burnham committee was being reconsidered by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

On Wednesday Mr Terence Casey, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, said he was complaining about the NUT's overall majority on the committee. He said the NUT had 16 seats and the seven other teacher organizations had 12.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said yesterday that Mrs Williams had told the union that she had not asked the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to examine the representation of the different teacher organizations on Burnham.

Mr Casey had claimed a union membership of 100,000. Mr Jarvis said an independent survey carried out by the Schools Council for 1976 showed that the in-service teacher membership for England and Wales of the NASUWT was 30,000 and that for the NUT was 229,900.

Mr Jarvis accused Mr Casey of making irresponsible and unfounded statements. He shows all the frenzy of someone who realizes he is miles behind in the membership stakes.

Kitson warning 'nonsensical'

A warning by Mr Alex Kitson, a member of the Labour Party's national executive, broadcast by Moscow Radio, that a return of a Conservative government under Mrs Thatcher would restart the cold war was described by Mr John Davies, the Conservative foreign affairs spokesman, as "nonsensical" last night.

Mr Kitson has been criticized for other remarks he made in a speech during last week's celebrations in the Soviet Union to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

According to a BBC transcript, Mr Kitson, a national officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, intervened on Moscow Radio on November 3, said it would be up to the trade union movement and the British Labour movement to ensure peaceful coexistence established in the last 12 years between Labour

governments and the Soviet government.

He added: "I have fears, actually, for Anglo-Soviet relationships if we return to a Tory government in Great Britain. I do not see for a development of peaceful coexistence under a Socialist government in Britain, or a Labour government in Britain."

"But I do fear, and I am being quite frank and brutal about this, that if we have the return of a Tory government in Britain and Margaret Thatcher as the next Prime Minister of our country, I can see a return to 1948. I can see a return to the cold war."

Mr Davies said: "It is about as nonsensical as his other remarks in Russia. Margaret Thatcher and I have made it clear that, while having a good deal of criticism to offer about the major arms build-up of the Soviet Union and the problems

we face as a result, our purpose would be to seek to have a dialogue with them and work as far as we can towards rational living arrangements with them."

Mr Kitson also told the Soviet radio audience that what had happened in the Soviet Union had had its impact, a serious impact, on the British working people, "and I would say to their advantage."

Mr Davies said: "Mr Kitson is advised to go to live in Russia by a group of Conservative MPs and Mr Andrew Faulds, Labour MP for Warrley, East, in a Commons early-day motion."

The motion expresses the House's "entire approval of any arrangements which may be possible to enable Mr Kitson to reside permanently in the country of his preference in exchange for the right to emigrate for one of the many deserving Russian dissidents and persons denied that right."

Life on the road with all mod cons

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Earls Court, London, has been transformed for the next 10 days into a fair simulation of some people's idea of Glamour by the Caravan Camping Holiday Show, and more than 400,000 sq ft of exhibition space is closely covered with caravans, mobile homes, motor caravans, trailers and tents.

The caravan is a peculiarly British holiday home. Although there is one West German exhibitor at the show, the fact, often repeated during yesterday's opening ceremonies, is that of 2,500 caravans sold in Britain last year only 231 were imported.

In contrast, our caravan exports, to 85 different countries, were worth more than £50m. It is estimated that there are to be five million caravans in Britain, with 315,000 touring caravans, 245,000 static holiday caravans, and 95,000 mobile homes already in use.

The theme of this year's show is "the way to freedom", but as Miss Judith Chalmers pointed out in opening the exhibition, life for caravanners is not all leisure. At times it resembles a hectic game of musical chairs, with increasing numbers of caravans competing for fewer caravans. There are nearly 150,000 more British caravans than six years ago, she said, but 252 fewer sites to accommodate them.

Caravans with double glazing, central heating, and flush lavatories are now fairly common.

From January, the National Caravan Council and Caravan Club announced after yesterday's opening, caravanners will be able to take their vehicles to approved centres for annual safety checks, which at £10 a time will be more than twice as expensive as MOT tests for cars, so that they can be sure their caravans are not just lavishly furnished and beautifully decorated but also safe to take on the road.

Ted Ray inquest

An inquest into the death of Ted Ray, the comedian, who died suddenly in hospital on Tuesday at the age of 71, was opened at Hoxsey, London, yesterday, and adjourned for three weeks.

'No rush of doctors' to Europe

There has been no rush of doctors from Britain to the rest of Europe with the introduction of free movement of doctors within the EEC earlier this year, figures released by the General Medical Council yesterday suggest.

More than a thousand doctors have made inquiries about the specialist certificate needed to practise in most EEC countries, the council's figures show. Only 275 doctors applied for the £25 certificate up to October 1, and only 219 of them have so far been granted.

Of the applicants, 77 were specialists in anaesthetics and radiology, areas where Britain is short of consultants and where there is much demand in Europe.

Manpower shortage: The shortage of manpower to care for the old and the elderly mentally infirm in hospitals and in the community remains a big difficulty, Dr Richard Wainford, Williams, director of the Health Advisory Service, says in the annual report, published today (our Health Services Correspondent writes).

In a foreword to the report Mr Enoch Powell, Secretary of State for Social Services, and Mr Morris, Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for the disabled, say they are considering ways of increasing recruitment. They include encouragement for the appointment of doctors willing to undergo further training in the specialty and more encouragement for women doctors to train.

Annual Report of the Health Advisory Service, 1976 (Stationery Office, £1.75).

British system advocated for European poll

Mr Geoffrey Rippon, leader of the Conservative delegation to the European Parliament, believes there are good "European" reasons for Britain retaining its first-past-the-post system for the first direct elections to that assembly.

In a foreword to a new Conservative Group for Europe pamphlet on the role of the European Parliament, Mr Rippon argues that the closer the three kind members to the people who elect them, the more effective Parliament will be.

Honoured for excellence



The Comité de L'Excellence Européenne honours the Hyde Park Hotel

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Dismissed woman building labourer loses appeal

By Annabel Ferriman

Miss Janet Krenzel, aged 24, who lost her labouring job on a London building site for swearing at her employer, lost her appeal to an employment appeal tribunal yesterday. She is now training as a bricklayer under the government training opportunities scheme.

Mr Gladstone Taylor, her employer, of South Tottenham, dismissed her in July, 1976. She appealed yesterday against an industrial tribunal's decision in May that her dismissal did not contravene the Sex Discrimination Act.

Miss Madeleine Colvin, for Miss Krenzel, said the tribunal had mistakenly considered whether the dismissal was justified instead of whether a man would have been dismissed in the same circumstances.

Mr Justice Phillips upheld the tribunal's ruling that there was a difference between swearing in front of and at the employer. Miss Krenzel was guilty of the latter.

Miss Krenzel, who lives in Stoke Newington, belongs to a group called Women in Construction, which is committed to increasing the number of women in the building industry. The group after the hearing criticised both the tribunal and the Sex Discrimination Act.

The case illustrates clearly how the Act allows discrimination against women to continue as always," it said.

Law Report, page 13

Security guard shot in raid at bank

Surgeons were trying yesterday to save the shattered leg of Mr Alan Fitzjohn, aged about 30, a security guard, after both barrels of a shotgun had been fired at him during a bank raid. He was shot in Barclays bank, Woodcote Road, Watlington, Surrey, as he and a colleague approached the cash desk.

He was, accused by two men who snatched two empty money bags. The raiders escaped in a van. £5,000 store raid: Two armed men escaped with £5,000 after holding up security guards and shoppers in a Safeways supermarket at Norwood, south London, yesterday.

Cash snatched: A raider carrying a shotgun snatched £1,800 from a Securix guard in Watlington last night. The guard had collected the money from a council rates office. A shot was fired, but no one was hurt.

'Mirror' back to normal

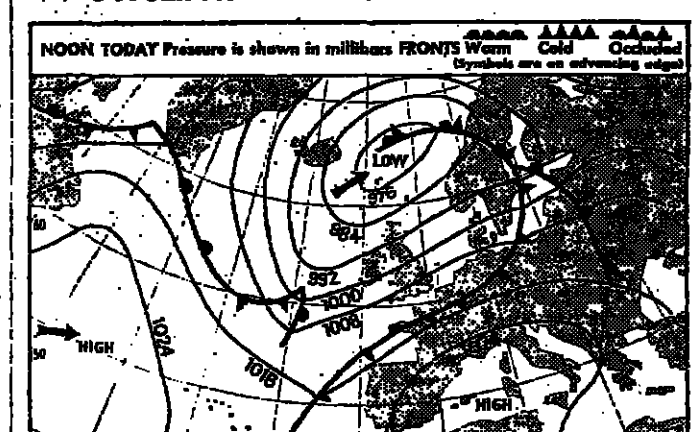
By Our Labour Staff

Journalists at the Daily Mirror in London voted yesterday to allow the newspaper to be produced normally until Monday, when further talks will be held with the management of Mirror Group Newspapers. The journalists made their decision after learning that the management was prepared to negotiate the amount of pay deduction arising out of disruption of the newspaper over a pay claim.

Mr David Coleman

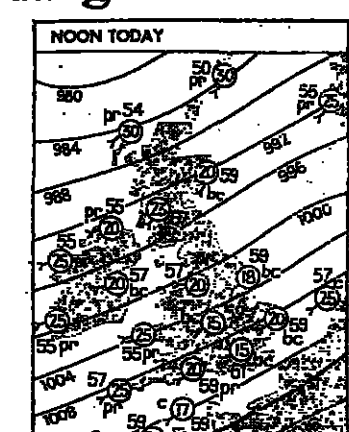
Mr David Coleman, the sports commentator, is to return to the BBC after settlement of a legal dispute over an alleged breach of contract.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 5.12 am. Sun sets: 4.17 pm.
Moon rises: 7.5 am. Moon sets: 4.47 pm.
New Moon: 7.9 am.
Lighting up: 4.47 am to 6.43 am.
High water: London Bridge, 1.10 am, 7.6m (24.9ft); 1.28 pm, 7.6m (24.9ft).
Low water: London Bridge, 6.5 am, 13.6m (44.7ft); 7.16 pm, 13.6m (44.7ft).
Dover, 10.31 am, 7m (22.8ft); 10.57 pm, 7m (22.8ft).
Hull, 5.32 am, 6.6m (21.8ft); 6.0 pm, 7.6m (25ft); Liverpool, 10.43 am, 9.7m (32ft); 11.9 pm, 9.7m (32ft).
E. NE England: Most places dry, sunny periods; wind SW fresh; max temp 13°C (55°F).
W. Midlands, NW, Central N England: Bells, blustery showers; later: wind SW fresh; max temp 13°C (55°F).
SW England, Wales: Bright periods, blustery showers; wind SW fresh or strong; max temp 13°C (55°F).
Lake District, Isle of Man, NE, NW, SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, N Ireland: Heavy showers, prolonged in places, rather cloudy; wind SW strong; max temp 10°C (50°F).
Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Mainly dry, sunny intervals, rain in evening; wind SW fresh or strong; max temp 11°C (52°F).
Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, rain at times; wind SW gales, max temp 8°C (46°F).
Outlook for the weekend: Sunny intervals and showers in most parts, perhaps longer out.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.
Aberdeen: c, 10; Glasgow: c, 10; London: c, 10; Manchester: c, 10; Newcastle: c, 10; Nottingham: c, 10; Oxford: c, 10; Plymouth: c, 10; Reading: c, 10; Southampton: c, 10; Swansea: c, 10; Cardiff: c, 10; Exeter: c, 10; Gloucester: c, 10; Hereford: c, 10; Ipswich: c, 10; Leicester: c, 10; Lincoln: c, 10; Loughborough: c, 10; Luton: c, 10; Middlesbrough: c, 10; Milton Keynes: c, 10; Norwich: c, 10; Peterborough: c, 10; Preston: c, 10; Rotherham: c, 10; Sheffield: c, 10; Slough: c, 10; Stevenage: c, 10; Stoke-on-Trent: c, 10; Sudbury: c, 10; Telford: c, 10; Thames Valley: c, 10; Torquay: c, 10; Truro: c, 10; Walsley: c, 10; Warrington: c, 10; Watlington: c, 10; Weymouth: c, 10; Wigan: c, 10; Wolverhampton: c, 10; Worcester: c, 10; York: c, 10.

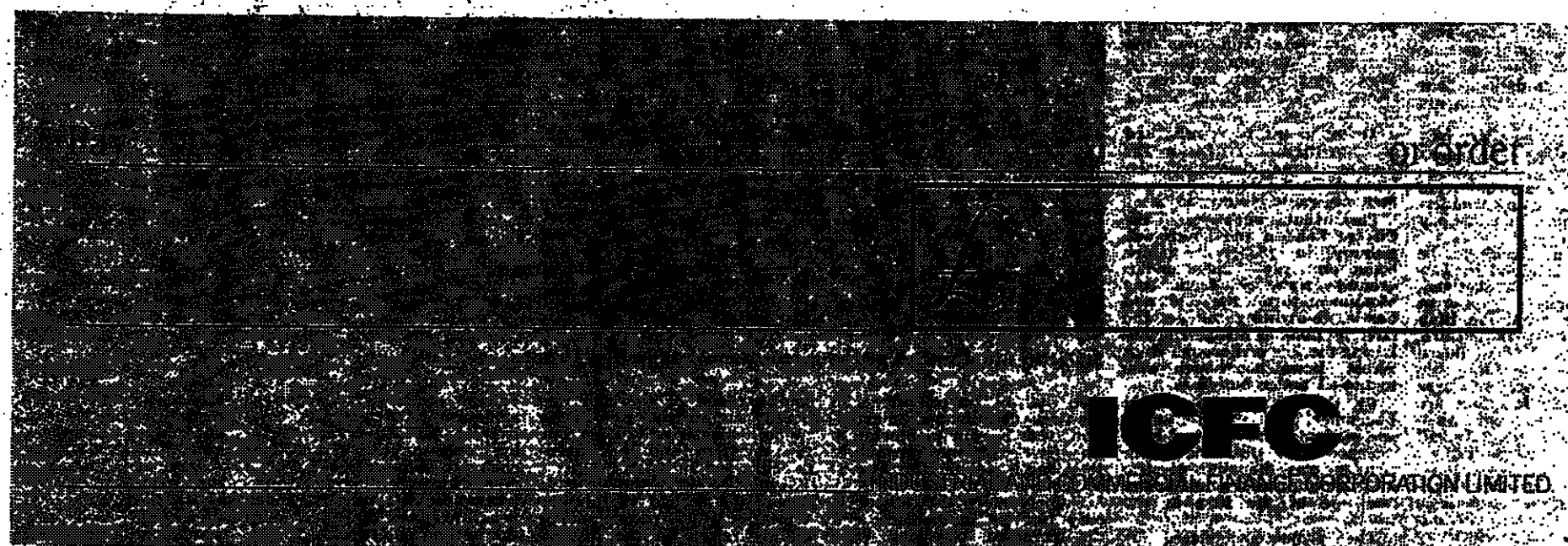


breaks of rain on Saturday; becoming colder.
Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Winds SW fresh or strong; sea rough or very rough.
St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Winds SW strong to gale, locally severe; sea very rough, occasionally heavy.
Yesterday
London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 18°C (64°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 14°C (57°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 73 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 5.4hr. Sea: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1.015 m above mean, steady, 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

Overseas sailing prices
Aberdeen: £12.50; Glasgow: £12.50; London: £12.50; Manchester: £12.50; Newcastle: £12.50; Nottingham: £12.50; Oxford: £12.50; Plymouth: £12.50; Reading: £12.50; Southampton: £12.50; Swansea: £12.50; Cardiff: £12.50; Exeter: £12.50; Gloucester: £12.50; Hereford: £12.50; Ipswich: £12.50; Leicester: £12.50; Lincoln: £12.50; Loughborough: £12.50; Luton: £12.50; Middlesbrough: £12.50; Milton Keynes: £12.50; Norwich: £12.50; Peterborough: £12.50; Preston: £12.50; Rotherham: £12.50; Sheffield: £12.50; Slough: £12.50; Stevenage: £12.50; Stoke-on-Trent: £12.50; Sudbury: £12.50; Telford: £12.50; Thames Valley: £12.50; Torquay: £12.50; Truro: £12.50; Walsley: £12.50; Warrington: £12.50; Watlington: £12.50; Weymouth: £12.50; Wigan: £12.50; Wolverhampton: £12.50; Worcester: £12.50; York: £12.50.

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Miners in two minds over how to pursue their 90% pay claim

The miners' pay argument moved into a deceptive political orbit yesterday with a decision to postpone conflict with the U. O. W. prosecution from the left till it does not wear a clash with the government.

The executive of the National Union of Mineworkers rejected the National Coal Board's reply to its 90 per cent pay claim, and Mr Joseph Gormley, the union's president, said: "It was decided unanimously not to accept the board's offer and to seek an independent committee to investigate the value of the coal-mining committee to try to prosecute the claim."

But the miners, while pursuing their basic rate demand, are also looking at the prospects for area productivity deals in coalfields that have refused to accept the outcome of the acreage pithed before on local incentives.

A complicated political situation has arisen. Lewt-wingers are happy to see wage talks drag on over Christmas, without reaching an immediate settlement. But over the past few November 1, claim date which breaches the TUC's 12 month policy. The moderates are at war among themselves about the best strategy to follow.

Mr. Lou Clarke, a moderate, who is president of the Nottinghamshire miners, did not get a second for his proposal that the Government should force the union should be tested quickly on their willingness to strike over the claim for wage rates of £135 a week at the end of 1975.

The Government's rates elsewhere are lower, but the Government is regarded by moderates as the best way of confounding left-wing efforts to breach the Government's guidelines.

But the war was not over. The industrial action if a snap ballot was taken, they argued.

Home Office officials said yesterday that the Government was concerned about people who overstayed in Britain without permission after gaining entry as students or visitors.

Another area of concern was the provision of jobs for people who overstayed, but were not authorized to work. Both infringements are being studied by the Home Office.

The officials, who are being questioned by the Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration, were replying to Mr Sidney Bidwell, MP. He suggested that most illegal immigrants should be deported, but those overstaying on a through, clandestine entry in holds of ships and similar methods.

Answering questions about arranged marriages, Mr H. Y. G. Richards, Chief Inspector of Immigration, said that the Immigration Department had no information from immigration officers that in some cases brides seemed reluctant to enter into the such arrangements. They almost told immigration officers that they did not want to marry, if the prospective husbands were kept out it would suit them.

The officials were reluctant to answer suggestions by Mr Dudley Smith MP, that immigration officers should be more cautious since. In the particular case of Hongkong they could not say what future numbers were likely to be.

Mr Richards said the Home Office said that at the time of the 1971 census there were resident in Britain 30,000 people who had been born in Hongkong, of whom 10,000 were thought to be of Hongkong descent. Since then about 1,500 women out of a total of 4,000 from Hongkong allowed to settle in Britain were wives joining their husbands.

The Anti-Nazi League, an unparty organization to campaign against the National Front, was launched yesterday with an appeal for 110,000. Its supporters include MPs, academics and trade unionists.

Mr Peter Hain, who chaired the inaugural press conference, said the object was to tear away the facade of respectability behind which the evil of the National Front masqueraded.

Leaflets to be distributed to voters in the Bournemouth, East, by-election will set the pattern. With eyes on future elections, they will add: "We must be ever-vigilant against the National Front's hypocrisy." The aim was to expose the Front's Nazi credentials.

Although the campaign leans towards left of centre in the support at present, Mr Hain said that the intention was to make it as broadly based as possible.

Mr Paul Haborow, the league's organising secretary, said that by the time of the general election there would be dossiers available on every National Front candidate, including extracts from their speeches.

The league is publishing a newspaper to counter one being sent by the Front to schools.

Mr Eric Knight, aged 63, of KILLSICK ROAD, ARNOLD, NOTTINGHAM, died yesterday while working on a conveyor belt at Gedling colliery.

A tunnel vision of London at war

You may have to wait ages for a Northern Line train at the Bank, but you will wait much longer at King William Street. The rails are lifted, the booking hall is flattened in favour of an office block, and stationers grow two feet long from the tunnel roof.

It is 77 years since the last of the "padded cells" cut off their way from the City to St Pancras for a flag fare of two-and-a-half pence. The rails of London's first deep-level Tube line, the City and South London Railway. It was dug by the muscles of navvies in 1890 without benefit of machinery.

Today it has been relegated to a ventilation shaft for the Northern Line, visited only by men and railway enthusiasts.

Parliament authorized the City of London and Southwark in 1844, and the work began on a shallow underground railway from the Monument to the Elephant and Castle, passing under the River Thames and following the line of Borough High Street. It was not thought wise to tunnel under the river.

In the same year, on December 18, 1850, its name and method of traction had been changed; the City and Southwark Railway, the first underground railway in London and one of the first in the world.

The promoters, elated by their success in carrying more

Solidarity with the persecuted Christians of Southern Africa was expressed by the General Synod of the Church of England in an emergency debate yesterday.

It unanimously supported a resolution from the Archbishop of Canterbury's telegram last month to the President of South Africa and encouraging Anglicans to support, by their prayers and contributions to the British Council of Churches Christian Institute fund, those members and staff of the institute who have been banned.

The resolution was introduced by the Rev. Canon Robert Fabham. "It is the Christian Institute's untiring witness to peaceful change in Southern Africa in accordance with their principles for the good of all mankind, who are highly worthy of our support," he said.

The debate was "one more blow against a system that allows men of Christian conviction to be silenced or to live in silent tribute to those killed while in police custody," in South Africa.

The other main business of the day was consideration of

the report, *The Irish Problem*

than five million passengers in the first year, planned an extension from Boston to Stockwell. The first part was opened in 1900, and is now the City branch of the Northern line.

Unfortunately the tunnel is only 10½ ft. in diameter and the cramped carriages were nicknamed "padded cells." The southern end of the line was bored out to the new Tube tunnel diameter of 12½ ft., but the northern end was abandoned.

At the height of the air raids during the Second World War a total of 14,000 people sought nightly refuge in the disused stations and tunnels. Their

Social Services Correspondent

The Young Volunteer Force Foundation, launched from 10 Downing Street 10 years ago as a type of British "peace corps" is to be restarted under a different title on November 21. The new body, Community Projects Foundation, will still be largely financed by the Government, but its objectives will be different.

Instead of encouraging young people to do community service, particularly for the elderly, the new organization will attempt to pioneer new forms of social action and community organization, not all of them based on voluntary welfare projects. If successful, the foundation will try to make them permanent features of community life in specific localities.

An 18-month programme has been drawn up. The organization will attempt to win national recognition of the urgent need for professional co-operation with voluntary neighbours and with disadvantaged groups of people.

will also research, and test ways

A decision to derate the installations at Florita, Oriskany, and the other installations of the Occidental consortium has come as a blow to the investors and may mean a loss between £1m and £2m this year to Orkney's income from the plant and a decrease of 35p in pounds for rates.

The assessor had valued the installations at £1,048,182, but the appeal committee, while upholding that figure, came down in favour of Occidental by deciding that the installations are entitled to "industrial deration" on the basis that they are mainly for processing rather than storage of oil. The oil company will pay on only 667,091 instead of £1,048,182.

It is understood that

assessor is to appeal.

A proposal by the National Union of Students' exec to suspend individual u.s. that deny the democratic right of their members to elect their members was defeated yesterday by Trevor Phillips, the u.s. national secretary. The sus would not apply to unions that do not have a democratic election of the national executive national conference, he said. Mr. Phillips was speaking at a national conference on the issue of Zionism. The conference passed an emergency motion proposing Mr. Colin Talbot, a member of the executive to retract the proposal to give itself power to suspend unions. The conference also passed a resolution requiring that proposal to constitute "a serious attack on the democratic and federal

Nature of the NOS .

For safety, as well as to protect the integrity of the data, the amount of litter at sea could and should be controlled, the Keep Britain Tidy Group states in a recently published report.

The report's philosophy is: waste disposal at sea is if it is diluted in a year, rot, and water and hence in practice, lost, the report says. Although the report says that litter is now released in quantities often exceed the water absorption capacity.

The author, Mr Trevor L. Lewis, is a senior lecturer in studies at Bangladeshamirshale College of Higher Education, regular surveys at Senigallia, Italy, in 1976. His finds range from glass fragments and sharp-metal containers to trunks, distress rockets and hand fire extinguishers. The beach (Keep Britain Tidy Group) is 37 West

Granda Television has been accused of biased and offensive treatment in a recent programme describing an application by Hitachi, the Japanese industrial group, to set up a new power plant in the North-east.

Lord Glenamara, chairman of the North of England Development Council, has written to the BBC to demand that Granda should clarify its attitude about a *World in Action* programme shown last Monday. He said the programme was damaging and distorted in its treatment of the region.

The programme, he said, portrayed the region inaccurately by showing background scenes of a decaying poverty-stricken area, when in fact it is one of the prides of the region, Washington New Town, where the Hitachi plant is due to be built.

His criticism was based on a letter from the British Association of

Most seriously, he said, the programme deeply offended Japanese executives in Britain by depicting them as "greedy" effects and materialistic "barbarians" to reinforce "xenophobic feelings and hostility to Japanese culture and business methods".

He also said that the programme's "panel" round "was irrelevant to discussion of Japanese business methods because it was not stated that such methods are not used by other countries".

The use of Samurai warriors and Trojan horse images was equally disturbing and irrelevant, he said, the real issues raised by the programme were obscured by the programme's misrepresentation in Britain.

Granda Television said that the programme was shown in Manchester yesterday that 1,600 copies of the programme had been studied by the programme's producer when a copy of it was available and the company would then issue a statement.

Supplement The trend towards coeducational schools is largely responsible to the small number of girls in the secondary schools. The British and Industrial Cables annual meeting of the Girls' School Association was held in London yesterday.

Headmistress of Sydney Girls' High School, said girls were not encouraged to study against the traditional scientific role assigned to them. In mixed schools the girls were much less likely to study science and mathematics and be encouraged into jobs (University).

Dr Ewen McEwen, a vice-chairman of Joseph Lucas, said the Government was not doing the field in producing women engineers. The speed of com-

prehensive schools was leading to a uniform set of curriculum

Brooklyn not impressed by 'think tank' proposals

The letter from America made its point without frills, and with scant regard for the niceties of the English language so carefully observed by BBC World Service announcers. "It is much," it began, "as if you cut off de broadcasts to New York. It's de only civilized sounds wint we hear here. Afta while, nobody here won't be able to talk, read and write: English go good, no more."

It arrived at Bush House, London, headquarters of the BBC's External Services, in response to one of the several recommendations made three months ago in the report of the Central Policy Review Staff (the "think tank"). That document called for the cessation of broadcasts to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States, at-a-cost that would save about £50,000, a drop in the ocean in the context of the total Bush House expendi-

The strength of feeling in the United States, expressed in hundreds of letters, was not a great surprise to the people who run the service, however. A "dipstick" survey taken before the think tank report showed that 750,000 people in the United States listen regularly to the BBC World Service; letters came in from more than forty states.

The same note of despair runs through most of them. A man in Witter, Arkansas, wrote: "If the members of the think tank were to spend six months in the United States, especially in the Mid West, they would realize that North America is in as much need of an impartial and comprehensive news coverage as any country in the world."

A Californian pointed out that in this country news is a commercial business, and both radio and television treat it as a vehicle for commercials."

Mr William J. Burton, writing from the University of South Alabama, suggested that loyal listeners to *The Men from the Ministry* would recognize the "think tank" proposals as a product of the "Ministry of General Assistance."

Having enjoyed the World Service since before the war, a listener in Washington, D.C. called it "one of the outstanding intellectual stimulants of m

And in American in Caracas emphasized the programme's export value. The BBC, he said, used a very soft sell: he himself regularly listened to the station to help his family in Britain, where they became acquainted with such British export brands at Church's. Sir Michael, Daks, Fringle and Woodrow said they were not regular purchasers.

Mr John Schmeizer, of New Mexico, poured scorn on American radio and television. "Absolutely terrible," he said. "The BBC is a much more welcome source of dispassionate news, listenable music and the drama and comedies which are totally unavailable

From Ontario, a listener wrote to the Prime Minister: "It will be a sad day if an objective 'voice of truth' were silenced merely for financial reasons." Overseas broadcasting was "great international advertising."

Or, as a man from Brooklyn put it rather more bluntly at the end of his communication: "Don't signal Britain's decline like this, you schmucks."

The infeasibility of traditional ambulance services and lack of imagination in seeking alternatives have led to an expensive and inefficient service, says a non-emergency services editor in an article in the *British Medical Journal* today suggests.

The organization of transport for patients in the National Health Service has not kept pace with changes in patterns of care, under which day care and home visits are becoming more widespread, he says. By using voluntary drivers or even taxis the cost of the ambulance service could be halved.

The service employs 15,000 men and women trained to meet any emergency, but most of the time is spent on unsolicited requests, computerized and not, and taking patients to and from outpatient departments of hospitals.

1995.

Council has started legal proceedings to challenge the authority of the Secretary of State for Education and Science over the reorganization of certain schools in the Alton area. The council said yesterday that the proceedings were for "declaration by the court" of the requirement by the Secretary of State for Education and Science that further proposals should be submitted to her for amalgamating a single school centre based on the Alton Ripon area, based on the principle of two existing schools, outside her legal powers".

The statement said that authority was required by the Secretary of State to submit within six months proposals for a new school in the area, on the principle set out in the guidelines of the Education Act, 1976, in the Alton area. The principle is that secondary education is to be provided only in schools

Council has started legal pro-

proceedings to challenge the authority of the Secretary of State for Education and Science from the reorganisation of catchment areas for secondary education in the Ripon area. The council said yesterday that the proceedings were for "detraction by the court" of the requirement by the Secretary of State for Education and Science that "further proposals should be submitted to her containing a single school catchment for the whole Ripon area based on the premises of the two existing schools," outside her "regional jurisdiction."

The statement said the authority was required by the Secretary of State to submit within six months proposals for giving effect to the general principle of a new section on the Education Act 1975 for the Ripon area. The principle is that secondary education is to be provided only in schools

where the arrangements for the admission of pupils are not based on selection by reference to ability or aptitude.

The council decided that the proposal to be submitted should take the form of two comprehensive schools for pupils aged between 11 and 16 or 18 based on the premises of Ripon Grammar School and Ripon College, and that the arrangements for the sixth-form arrangements based on the schools' premises should be staffed by the teachers of both schools.

The Secretary of State rejected those proposals in that they contemplated the continued separate existence of the two schools.

The council's statement said Queen's Council had expressed the view that the requirements of the Secretary of State was outside her authority. A delegation from the powers had met on 12th July 1966 and decided not to meet the Secretary of State or her nominees and court and had decided that it should begin High Court proceedings.

Inquiry into public buildings demanded: A parliamentary select committee should be established to investigate the operations of the Government's Property Services Agency, according to a report today in the magazine *Building Design* (our Planning Reporter writes). It is a sustained and apparently well-researched piece of investigative by two members of the public. The authors, who are both architects, save, a conservation group which has until now been mainly concerned with the protection of historic buildings. The authors criticize what they consider the exorbitant costs of new offices for central and local government. They argue that needs would have been better met by a better, served, by the conversion of existing buildings.

The photograph above of Victoria Avenue, Southcote, is used to illustrate the article. It shows: (A) Alexander House and (B) Porcellis House, both used by Customs and Excise; (C) Barga House, owned by the Ministry of Agriculture; (D) the Victoria House, part of which are occupied by the Department of Employment and Customs and Excise; (E) Telephone House, the telephone manager's office; (F) Victoria House,

occupied by the Department of Health and Social Security; (G) Colman House, used by the Inland Revenue, the Ordnance Survey and Customs and Excise; (H) Corby House, part of which is occupied by Customs and Excise; (I) the civil centre; (J) the courts and police headquarters; (K) the public library.

According to Mr Marcus Binney, chairman of Savoy, a senior official of the Property Services Agency has said that conversion costs between a half and two thirds of new buildings. Why then, he asks, does the agency continue to build office blocks when there are many sound reasons for securing valuable commercial and industrial buildings, including Savoy?

The reasons, he suggests are: slowness in responding to changing thinking about the inner city and large-scale redvelopments, unnecessarily strict building specifications and fear of staff attitudes. An official of the Property Services Agency has asked the council members would say if they were told there were moving government departments into former war-houses.* Mr Binney also complains of a lack of information about the cost of new public buildings.

"Probing parliamentary questions into expenditure on buildings compared with the resources that the information can be provided only at disproportionate cost."

Turning to local government, the report says that nearly every county and district council has provided itself with new offices since 1965. Particularly mentioned are the County of Glamorgan, where the total effect is of a standard that exceeds many luxury hotels'; Kensington Town Hall, London, "tailor-made for the pomp and grandification of the council"; elected members; and Hillingdon Civic Centre, also in London, "probably the most extravagant anywhere."

Some councils are commended for thrift, and imagination in the conversion and reuse of existing buildings. Newark, for example, spent £555,000 on buying and adopting Kelham Hall, designed by Sir John Soane; that Soane's was roughly £850 for each employee, whereas the Hillingdon centre cost more than £12,500 an employee.

The Department of the Environment said yesterday that the report is being studied.

By Ronald Kershner, "North York Times" Council has started legal proceedings to challenge the authority of the Secretary of State for Education and Science over the reorganization of comprehensive lines of secondary education in the Ripon area.

The council's request that the proceedings, as a declaration by the court "is the requirement by the Secretary of State for Education and Science that further proposals should be submitted to her not contemplating a single school catering for the whole Ripon area," is the subject of the two existing schools, is outside her legal powers."

The statement said the authority was required by the Secretary of State to submit within six months proposals for the general application of the principle set out in section 1 of the Education Act, 1976, in the Ripon area. The principle is that secondary education is to be provided only in school

where the arrangements for the admission of pupils are not based on selection by reference to ability or aptitude.

The council decided that the proposal to be submitted should take the form of two comprehensive schools for pupils aged between 11 and 16 or 18 based on the premises of Ripon Grammar School and Ripon College, and that the arrangements for the sixth-form arrangements based on the schools' premises should be staffed by the teachers of both schools.

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HOME NEWS

Tribunal on public record aims envisaged

By Peter Hennessy

The appointment of a team of three to review public record policy is being considered in Whitehall. A committee of permanent secretaries, chaired by Sir Douglas Allen, Head of the Home Civil Service, has been set up, and is expected to put its recommendations to ministers early in the new year. The committee will probably be the successor to a former permanent secretaries' committee which headed a tribunal of inquiry into the whole field of the compilation, preservation and disclosure of government records. The last such review was undertaken by a departmental committee under the late Sir James Glegg, which reported in 1954. Last week Sir Douglas met a committee of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee, which represents the concerns of government archivists. Last year it unsuccessfully pressed for another Glegg-type inquiry. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Elwyn-Jones, ruled it out on the ground of cost.

Ministers repeated the question after a debate in the Lords last May and a lengthy correspondence in *The Times* which brought to light many imperfections in the system and voiced the deep disquiet of the historical profession about the present arrangements.

Leading the delegation from the advisory committee at last week's meeting was its chairman, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls. With him were Lord Trend, former Secretary of the Cabinet, and now Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford (with his experience of government and lively concern for public records he would be a natural choice to head a tribunal), Lord Taylor, the senior judge, and Mrs Margaret Gowing, official historian of the United Atomic Energy Authority and Professor of the History of Science at Oxford University.

Representing Whitehall alongside Sir Douglas Allen were Sir John Hunt, Secretary of the Cabinet, Sir Michael Palmer, Head of the Diplomatic Service, and Mr Wilfred Bourne, Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Lord Denning and his colleagues outlined before the committee issues that have been worrying scholars for years. Prominent among their arguments was the need to improve the quality of civil servants assigned to sifting or "weeding" documents before their destruction or retention to avoid the elapse of the 30-year rule. Among developments since the Glegg report and the Public Record Act, 1958, which encouraged its findings in statute, to which Lord Denning and his colleagues referred, were the transformation in the copying and storing of material effected by the advent of the computer and the photocopying machine. The growing public demand for greater openness was also in mind.

The number and shape of government departments has changed so rapidly that the work of the departmental record officer has been made more difficult. The proliferation of semi-governmental agencies has further complicated the keeping of records, the advisory committee believes.

So far, Sir Douglas Allen's committee has treated the matter as a piece of routine administrative "tidying up". It is reluctant to commission a large-scale inquiry on the Glegg pattern and believes a government archive service, which many on the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee would like to see, would be both costly and unnecessary.

DPP apologizes to girl after miscarriage case

A girl aged 13 convicted under a 116-year-old Act for trying to procure a miscarriage received an apology yesterday from the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Kenneth Dowling, assistant director, said the advice to prosecute the girl was "wrong" and he was "greatly regretted". Her conviction is likely to be quashed.

The girl was given a two-year imprisonment order in Leamington Spa in September. She had taken six laxative tablets and a hot bath to try to induce a miscarriage.

She was convicted under the Offences Against the Person Act, 1861, which legal experts say has not been used this century.

Duke's remedy for state industries

The Duke of Edinburgh said yesterday that the nationalized industries might have to employ fewer people to keep prices down and productivity up.

He told undergraduates at the Cambridge University Industrial Society: "It is unrealistic to expect the large and well established enterprises of the nationalized industries to increase the number of people they employ. Everything suggests that if they are to improve their productivity, or even maintain it, they must reduce the number of people in their services, their workforces, are more likely to shrink."

Earlier, he said: "When demands change, industries must change. Some people believe this to be hard and unfair, and contend that industries really exist for the benefit of those employed in them first and their value to the country second."

"If we do have one characteristic in common it is the certain knowledge that we know best. In the days of the empire the people suffered severely from this affliction were sent out to the colonies. Today they are all at home but I had better not suggest where I think they are to be found."

Radio speech defended: The Duke defended his controversial radio speech on Anglo Television in which he warned the nation of the dangers of a totalitarian state in the year 2000. He said: "It was a comment on life, and life is political. It was one man's view. Anything I said was never party political. I try not to be party political."

"For a country that has once dubbed a nation of shopkeepers we now have fewer small businesses than either France, Germany or the United States. I do not believe that this is a consequence of any decline in British ingenuity or individual enterprise."

Parents may be called at inquiry on baby

A couple jailed at Norwich Crown Court in August for eight years each for killing their son, aged 18 months, may be called to give evidence to an independent inquiry that began at Cambridge yesterday into the death of the baby.

A preliminary list of 22 witnesses that has been prepared from statements made to the panel by the authorities that have set up the inquiry.

The panel will hear evidence of the death of Simon Pearce, who died with a deformed skull, bleeding into the lungs, bleeding over the brain, a ruptured liver and 12 broken ribs. He also had burns on the soles of his feet and scalding on his chest and buttocks.

Colin Pearce, aged 23, and Christine Pearce, aged 22, were jailed for the boy's manslaughter and received two-year sentences to run concurrently with the eight years for ill-treating him.

Mr Justice Patten urged that an inquiry should be set up after the first few months of his life, regularly visited by Suffolk social workers. After his parents moved to Soham, Cambridgeshire, the visits from health visitors stopped, although details had been passed to the Cambridge police authorities.

Mr Arthur Lamb, chairman of the inquiry, said a report would be published but it would not name names.

Man in the news: Priest who studied prejudice in depth Analysis of Irish attitudes wins Ewart-Biggs award

From Christopher Walker

Few pieces of academic research can have caused such a delayed reaction as *Prejudice and Tolerance in Ireland*, a daunting 600-page analysis of Irish attitudes selected as one of the winners of the award established in memory of Christopher Ewart-Biggs, the British Ambassador to Dublin who was murdered last year.

It was published in April under the auspices of the College of Industrial Relations, a little known Jesuit foundation on the outskirts of Dublin where the author, Father Michael MacGreil, a sociology lecturer, is a priest. The operation, which followed rejections from local publishers, cost him £10,000 borrowed from a sceptical bank manager.

Farther MacGreil now shares the £1,500 Ewart-Biggs award with Dr Anthony Stewart, author of *The Narrow Ground*.

The prize is assigned to promote peace and understanding in Ireland and the strengthening of links with Britain.

Although Father MacGreil's work is probably the most comprehensive ever produced about the attitudes of ordinary Irish men and women little was heard of it outside academic circles until September, when Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien used his findings as the basis for a controversial speech at Oxford.

The central theme of his remarks to an Anglo-Irish conference was that of real majority in favour of unification exists in Ireland. To support

the argument, which infuriated Roman Catholic politicians, Dr O'Brien quoted extensively from Father MacGreil's book. No sooner had he sat down than journalists, broadcasters and academics queued to buy copies at £9.90 each.

A former Irish army officer who turned Jesuit at the age of 28, Father MacGreil first became aware of the social significance of prejudice with the stories of antisemitism which emerged from the Second World War. The interest was rekindled when he was studying in Belgium in the early 1960s and visited former concentration camps, including Dachau.

The initial feeling for minorities increased to a passionate concern when he went to study at Kent State University, Ohio, while in America, Father MacGreil witnessed the racial trouble at first hand and resolved to make a detailed study of prejudice after returning to Ireland.

The interviews for the book began early in 1972. Altogether 2,311 Dubliners were interviewed for an average of an hour each about their feelings on a wide variety of subjects, including Northern Ireland. The interviews were carefully schooled in scientific techniques and deliberately chosen to minimize the possibility of bias.

As a priest I did not ask questions myself as that might have influenced the replies," Father MacGreil said.

As Dr O'Brien was quick to

sense, for British readers the most fascinating section concerns attitudes towards the provisional IRA. One table shows that out of 70 different racial, social and religious groupings, the Provisionals rated sixty-seventh, less popular than criminals, alcoholics and degenerates.

Among Dubliners the only groupings that exceeded them in unpopularity were drug addicts, communists and drug pushers, in that order.

A mild-mannered speaker, with no wish to become embroiled in political arguments, Father MacGreil emphasized at the time of the conference that he disagreed deeply with Dr O'Brien's interpretation of his findings, particularly over the extent of Irish support for nationalism.

He explained that his own reading of the mass of tables and closely annotated interviews was very different from that of the former Cabinet minister. "There is no doubt that the survey shows British people to be held in very high esteem in Dublin," he said.

But the results also indicate that Dubliners are not very enamoured with British political solutions for the Irish problem.

A man with a deep hatred of prejudice of any kind, Father MacGreil believes that an understanding of people's real attitudes can be a genuine help in countering it. For that reason he is anxious that a similar investigation of attitudes towards the Irish should now be conducted in Britain.

Some Scots solicitors criticized for delays

Some of Scotland's solicitors are criticized in an official report published yesterday for causing undue delay to their clients by taking on more work than they can handle. They could spare clients misunderstanding and frustration over delays by keeping them better informed of the progress of cases, the report says.

The complaints came from Miss Margaret Herbison, who was appointed last year by Mr Millar, Secretary of State for Scotland, as the first "lay observer" to the Scottish Law Society's complaints procedure.

In her first annual report, Miss Herbison, who retired from the post earlier this month and was succeeded by Mr John Taylor Bain, says that some of the 84 people who got into touch with her last year complained of delays, mostly in the settlement of estates but also in conveying and divorces.

Solicitors were not always to blame. In one case the delay was caused by a government department, and in others the slow processes of law.

She declares: "Much of the frustration experienced by the client might have been avoided if his solicitor had kept him more fully informed. In the field of communication some solicitors have much to learn."

"Secondly, I have had the impression that some of the delay was caused by solicitors accepting more business than they could adequately cope with."

In brief

Corruption trial moved to London

A corruption trial involving Bryans, a Birmingham-based building company, will not be held in the city.

Mr Justice May, at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday, granted an application to move the trial to London on the ground of possible prejudice caused by previous publicity.

Sentence cut

A nine-year jail sentence on Alan de Vere Taylor, aged 55, a freelance journalist, of Fernwood Nursery Gardens, Stamford, was cut to four years by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Zoo may be saved

A rescue plan for Dudley Zoo, West Midlands, which is due to close in four weeks, has been worked out between its owner, Scotia Investments, Dudley council, and Bristol Zoo. Details are not being disclosed until the proposals have been considered by the council and Bristol Zoological Society later this month.

Air terminal opposed

Richmond upon Thames Borough Council is being recommended, at its meeting on November 22, to oppose the building of a fourth terminal at Heathrow on the grounds of more aircraft noise and heavier road traffic.

Evidence sought

Mrs Reesé Short, MP for Wolverhampton, North-east, and chairman of the Commons social services and employment subcommittee, is calling for written evidence to be submitted to the subcommittee's inquiry into government and local authority training services.

Road improvements

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday announced his acceptance of the interim recommendations of a study group set up by the department and the Greater London Council to review plans for improving the A406 North Circular Road between Chiswick and Woodford.

Tunnelling record

Miners at Holnich colliery, Staffordshire, have claimed a European tunnelling record after carving out a 7 ft tunnel, 237 yards long, in a week.

Two historians

Joel Hurstfield pays tribute to J. E. Neale and V. H. Galbraith in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today. Maurice Bruce discusses the achievements of Lord Beveridge and David Walker as well as Edinburgh in the second series of profiles of the ancient Scottish universities.

Treasury figures show 'our grim decline'

The grim decline is shown in the following Treasury table given on Wednesday in answer to Mr Callaghan's original question. Mr Norman Tebbit, Conservative MP for Watnam Forest, Chichester.

Married man with two children under 11 (August 1977 prices):

	Real income (a week)	Real net income (a week)
Dec '73	68.10	67.79
Dec '75	68.91	70.31
Dec '76	63.78	65.68
Aug '77	61.83	63.45
Aug '77	60.16	62.06

The Treasury said that the figures in column one had been calculated on the basis of those given in a reply to Mr Tebbit on May 10, 1977. The figures for August took account of the 1977-78 tax year. The figures of average earnings in the second series of profiles of the ancient Scottish universities are for August, this year. In addition, the estimate of average earnings for the 1977-78 tax year has been reduced slightly after publication by the Department of Employment. The new figures are given in the new series of profiles of the ancient Scottish universities.

The figures in column two included the family allowance/child benefit as appropriate.

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Alan H. Ulrick-Vice President, Manager, Foreign Exchange Trading, London

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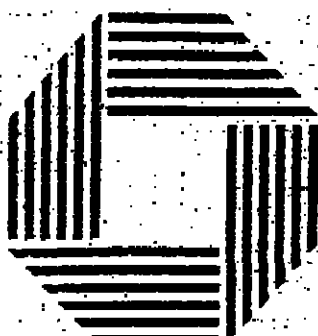
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PARLIAMENT, November 10, 1977

Government will not provoke workers in battle over incomes

House of Commons

The country was passing through a period of change and it was not to be expected that it would be a smooth process. The Government was aware of this and was determined to ensure that the process was as fair as possible. The Government was not going to provoke workers in a battle over incomes. The Government was aware of the fact that the economy was in a state of flux and that the Government was not going to provoke workers in a battle over incomes. The Government was aware of the fact that the economy was in a state of flux and that the Government was not going to provoke workers in a battle over incomes.

Second readings and guillotine motions for both devolution Bills

Mr Michael Foot, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House (Edinburgh, Lab.), announced that the second reading of the Scotland Bill would be on Monday, the second reading of the Wales Bill on Tuesday and timetable motions for each Bill would be debated on Wednesday.

Mr Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Con.), said that it was unreasonable and unprecedented to ask the House to take three major constitutional matters in three days and two immediate guillotine motions. She said that the House should be asked to take the Bills in a more considered manner.

Mr Foot replied that the Government was not going to be provoked into a battle over incomes. He said that the Government was aware of the fact that the economy was in a state of flux and that the Government was not going to provoke workers in a battle over incomes.

Shadow cabinet and public relations

Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Lab.) said that the shadow cabinet was not doing well in public relations. He said that the shadow cabinet was not doing well in public relations. He said that the shadow cabinet was not doing well in public relations.

Settlements well down into single figures the only road

The extent of the settlement was well down into single figures. The Government was aware of the fact that the economy was in a state of flux and that the Government was not going to provoke workers in a battle over incomes. The Government was aware of the fact that the economy was in a state of flux and that the Government was not going to provoke workers in a battle over incomes.

A 9 per cent fall in living standards—Sir G Howe

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs (East Surrey, Con.), said that the Government was not doing well in public relations. He said that the Government was not doing well in public relations. He said that the Government was not doing well in public relations.

Using N Sea oil to improve industrial base at home

Mr John Parnell (North Cornwall, Lab.) said that the Government was not doing well in public relations. He said that the Government was not doing well in public relations. He said that the Government was not doing well in public relations.

Obligation to see 10% rules observed

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Mr Tebbit and Mr Litterick at odds

Mr Thomas Litterick (Birmingham, Lab.) said that the Government was not doing well in public relations. He said that the Government was not doing well in public relations. He said that the Government was not doing well in public relations.

Foreign Office minister hopes world outcry will make South Africa pause for thought

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Next week

The main business in the Commons next week will be: Monday: Scotland Bill, second reading; Tuesday: Wales Bill, second reading; Wednesday: Participation Agreements Bill, second reading; Thursday: Debate on the Highway Code; Friday: Debate on the Highway Code.

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WEST EUROPE

Deputies show unease at signs of shift in French defence policy

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Nov. 10

The National Assembly, in a show of all but unanimous distrust towards the Government's defence policy, refused early today to approve part of the equipment budget which provides for expenditure on military hardware, as opposed to operating costs. The vote on this section was postponed until the end of the budget debate on November 18.

There seems to be no doubt that the equipment budget will eventually be approved. But the deputies of the government majority, with the Gaullists in the van, wanted to give the Government a solemn warning over what they regard as a change in the top priority of French defence, to the detriment of the nuclear deterrent and in favour of conventional armaments.

Some Gaullists—along with the Communists—went further and suspect that this shift in priorities implies a gradual drift away from the sacrosanct principle of an independent defence policy and towards greater cooperation with Nato.

The left-wing opposition stood aside from this parliamentary struggle which pitted members of the government coalition against the minister, and merely counted the blows.

M. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, leader of the left wing of the Socialist Party, insisted in a heated speech that the Government majority was now refusing to face the direct consequences of the six-year military programme it had voted a year ago.

This placed the emphasis on the build-up of the conventional forces which had been sorely neglected to the benefit of the nuclear deterrent in the first two military programmes.

The Government's programme voted last year involved a shift in emphasis. It was based on the contention that the strategy of deterrence constituted a viable, at French security could not be guaranteed in isolation, but only in cooperation with allies, though France was not part of the integrated Nato command.

Criticism by deputies of the Government majority that the equipment budget centred on two points: that it provided "ridiculously low" appropriations for the construction of a sixth nuclear submarine, without, however, having insisted last year during the discussion of the new six-year programme that it must be built and go into service in 1985; and that the minister refused to give the Assembly a precise breakdown of the expenditure on military hardware between now and 1982.

M. Yvon Bourges, the Defence Minister, denied that there had been any change in priorities. The capacity of destruction of the strategic nuclear forces would be quadrupled by 1982. "The budget of 1978 consolidates on all planes the autonomy of national deterrence by respecting the priority given to nuclear forces," to which 56 per cent of the equipment budget was devoted. But in fact, this priority will be placed on missiles rather than on their launchers.

The minister emphasised that in 1978 the new medium range air-to-ground missile, which would equip the Mirage 2000 of the tactical nuclear force, would be available. The strategic missiles of the Plateau d'Albion would be equipped with thermonuclear warheads, while the development of multiple warheads would be under way. These are due to be in service by 1990.

The minister argued that it would be useless to begin now the construction of a sixth nuclear submarine which would be obsolete by the end of the century. He maintained that the budget for the Navy would have increased by more than 60 per cent since 1975.

The defence budget has indeed increased by 16.3 per cent of the total budget of the state, and defence is now the biggest single item of government expenditure. In spite of increasing economic difficulties, the Government's aim is to achieve a 20 per cent share for defence by the end of the six-year military programme. But the problem is not so much the size of the cake as how to divide it up between the different priorities.

M. Messmer, the former Prime Minister, writing in *l'Informateur* yesterday, said that the Government should reconsider the wisdom of keeping under arms half a million men, and hanging on to conscription. But this it refuses to do.

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Chain-store owner kidnapped in Vienna

From Sue Masterman
Vienna, Nov. 10

An Austrian chain-store owner, Herr Walter Michael Palmers, aged 74, is being held to ransom for 50m schillings (£1.3m) by kidnapers who appear to have seized him from his private car while he was driving home in Vienna last night. Herr Palmers and his family own more than 100 clothing stores.

The kidnapers are believed to have left a note in the car, demanding the ransom. The Austrian police refused to give any information "in the interests of the investigation" but said they suspected a criminal gang and not political terrorists.

The Palmers kidnap, almost a carbon copy of the Caransa kidnap affair in Holland two weeks ago, when a property owner was held for ransom a week before being released for more than £2m, appears to be the work of criminals who knew their victim's movements.

Herr Palmers, whose large family are almost all employed in the political and economic sectors between the Government and the opposition parties, over postulating municipal elections.

There have been reports that the political parties who signed the pact have agreed to put off municipal elections until next year. While these reports have been denied, the different political parties are in disagreement over the issue.

After the June general election all parties spoke of the need to the municipal elections

to be held before the end of 1977, but this is now considered most unlikely.

Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Socialist Secretary-General, saw Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister last night for two hours and told him that as far as his party was concerned the municipal elections must be held before next spring.

One of the problems is that there is no democratic legislation on municipal elections yet, as General Franco's laws are still in existence. Another problem is that for various reasons some of the parties are less keen than others to hold the elections quickly, in particular,

the ruling Democratic Centre Union which, according to secret opinion polls, is losing votes. The Communists on the other hand are keen for they consider that their star is rising.

Municipal elections are regarded here as very important, but for the moment the parties seem far more concerned with the trade union elections, which could be held in December.

While the parties themselves seem quite happy to put them off until next year there are increasing signs of restlessness over the matter in the Basque country where many mayors resigned last year.

Sweden bans aerosols

Stockholm, Nov. 10.—Sweden will ban the use of aerosol cans from January 1, 1979, in a move aimed at protecting the ozone layer of the earth's atmosphere.

—Agence France Presse.

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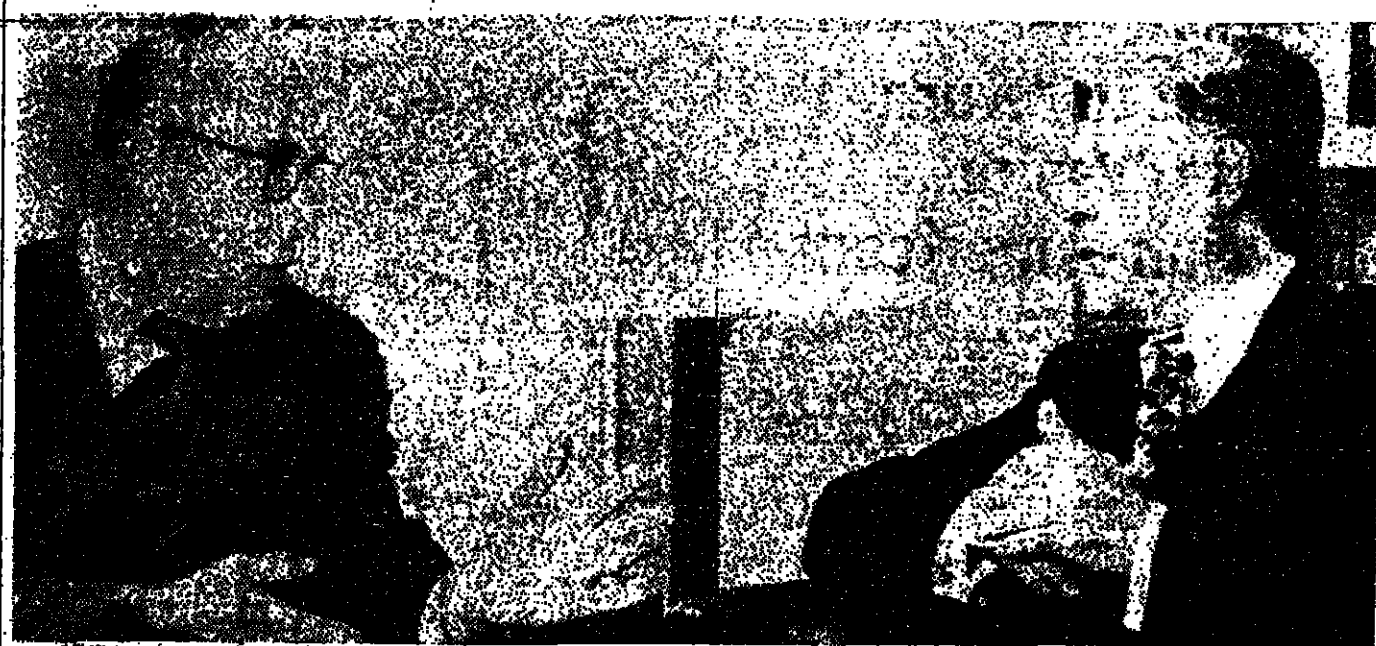
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Swedish aerosols



Mr Ray Jenkins, President of the EEC Commission, exchanging ideas in Bonn yesterday with Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor.

Spanish left denies 'secret deals'

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Nov. 10

The Spanish Workers Socialist Party today denied that there were any "secret clauses" in the political and economic pacts between the Government and the opposition parties, over postponing municipal elections.

There have been reports that the political parties who signed the pact have agreed to put off municipal elections until next year. While these reports have been denied, the different political parties are in disagreement over the issue.

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—Agence France Presse.

Herr Schmidt to visit Poland later this month

Bonn, Nov. 10.—Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, will pay an official visit to Poland from November 21 to 25, it was officially announced here today.

The visit was originally due to take place in September but was postponed because of the kidnapping of Dr Hanns-Martin Schleyer.

Government officials here said Herr Schmidt would have talks on international and bilateral questions with Mr Edward Gierek, the Polish party leader.

Prisoners flee from fortress in Sicily

Trapani, Sicily, Nov. 10.—Hundreds of police today hunted one of Italy's most feared urban guerrilla leaders who escaped from jail yesterday with two other men.

Antonio De Laurentis, aged 27, a leader of the Naples-based "Armed Proletarian Nuclei" group, and the two others broke out of a top security jail, an eleventh-century fortress built by Norman invaders on the island of Favignana, off this resort in western Sicily.

The two other men were named as Luciano Drogio and Oscar Soca, who were both awaiting trial on kidnapping and robbery charges. The police believe they may have made their break during early morning exercises. Their escape was not noticed until just before midnight.

The police later arrested one of the guards at Favignana jail in connexion with the escape. Earlier they found a rope made of bedsheet hanging from the top of a prison wall.

Signor De Laurentis was serving a sentence for kidnapping, organising a subversive gang and other politically-motivated crimes. He was arrested in Rome in 1975 during a gun battle with police in which Anna Maria Mantini, his girl friend was killed.

Favignana jail is one of five prisons recently turned into maximum security jails to house 600 of Italy's most dangerous prisoners.

American Express visits four country house hotels in Wales and the West Country



Some of the most beautiful scenery in Britain is to be found in the west, from the warm tranquillity of the Cotswolds to the wild, rugged coastline of Wales.

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Built in 1870, the Tara is a charming old country house hotel which commands a splendid view of Gloucester, three miles away, and of the Severn valley. This lovely panorama and the Tara's numerous function rooms mean it is well suited for both conferences and private occasions. Excellent French and English cuisine is assured by the resident chefs.

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Close Hotel, Tetbury

This country house, situated in stone-walled secluded gardens, was built in 1596 by a Cotswold wool merchant, and added to in Georgian times. The spacious central lounge with its domed ceiling is richly upholstered in red velvet. The bedrooms are large and elegant, and much practical thought has gone into them. They are all equipped with private bathroom and television. The staff are friendly and efficient, the atmosphere calm and relaxing.

The hotel restaurant is a gracious, elegant room and the cooking fulfils the expectations aroused by the surroundings. Specialities include a 3-fish pate and veal cutlets with morilles. 8 Long Street, Tetbury, Gloucestershire. Tetbury 52272.

Warpool Court Hotel, St. Davids

On the most western tip of unspoiled Pembrokeshire stands the Warpool Court Hotel, a magnificent grey stone country house which has become an exclusive first-class hotel renowned for its service and hospitality. Not only are the food and wine exquisitely prepared and expertly chosen (with local seafood a speciality) but an extensive range of activities are available to patrons.

In summer these include sailing, swimming in the hotel's covered pool, sea angling and exploratory coastal trips in the hotel boat. While in winter the emphasis is on the luxury of good food and log fires at special Country House and Chamber Music weekends—all in the magnificent scenery of the Pembrokeshire coastline. St. Davids 300.

£1.8m project to restore ruins of Pompeii

Naples, Nov. 10.—Archaeologists and art experts are soon to begin work on the restoration of the ruins of Pompeii.

The cost, estimated at more than £1.8m, is to be covered by the Italian Government.

Officials of the Antiquities department said that the restoration work would take more than five years and employ more than 200 specialists.

The project would include building new storage place for archaeological finds, including a catalogue with photographic documentation of the site and restoration of the ruins and frescoes damaged by the weather.—UPI.

Eight held in Germany on terror charges

Bonn, Nov. 10.—Four men and four women allegedly linked with the Baader-Meinhof terrorist group were arrested in Kaiserslautern.

They were charged with a bomb attack on a court building in Zweibrücken in Rhineland-Palatinate, on October 31. They were also charged with belonging to a terrorist organization.

Letters to a newspaper and a news agency declared that the attack had been an expression of rage at the "murder" of the three Baader-Meinhof terrorists in jail on October 18.

Provisional results of the post-mortem and official investigation have ruled out foul play.

Rubens reproductions on show in Paris Metro

Paris, Nov. 10.—The Paris Metro is becoming increasingly civilized. After seeing its bookstalls and riders in March to a three-day festival of classical, contemporary and pop music to meet commuters on their way, it is now launching into art.

It has arranged an exhibition of 33 reproductions of Rubens' drawings to mark the fourth anniversary of his birth. The pictures are by the photographer Hans Claus, who made them while the city was under curfew. The originals are located.

The display has been set up in the vast hall of the Auber express regional Metro station, near the Opéra. Each week a visitor to the exhibition, drawn by lot, will be given a reproduction.

For many years, the Louvre station has been a model of what can be done to brighten up the Metro, with its artistic lighting and well displayed reproductions of statuary, which give a foretaste of the museum above.

The transport board, besides the gradual renovation of underground stations, is planning to extend this idea to other historic Metro stations in the capital.



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OVERSEAS

President Carter set to return St Stephen's crown despite outcry by Hungarian-Americans

From David Cross
Washington, Nov 10

The United States is expected to abide by its plan to return the Holy Crown of St Stephen to Hungary, in spite of strong objections from representatives of the Hungarian-American community.

This was the message relayed by President Carter to a delegation which had come to discuss the intended return of the 977-year-old symbol of Hungarian sovereignty with Mr Mondale, the Vice-President, at the White House yesterday.

Mr Carter is reported to have told his visitors that in spite of criticisms of the Hungarian Government headed by Mr Janos Kadar, the Communist Party leader, the Hungarian people needed a symbol of their heritage. The crown would become "a distant memory" if it remained in the United States, he said.

He insisted that the return of the crown would not mean American endorsement of the communist system in Hungary. He also indicated that he would like the approval of Hungarian church leaders before the crown was handed back.

The Administration had originally intended to give the crown to the Hungarians during President Carter's planned trip

to four continents at the end of this month. But the postponement of the tour has resulted in uncertainty about the timing of the hand-over.

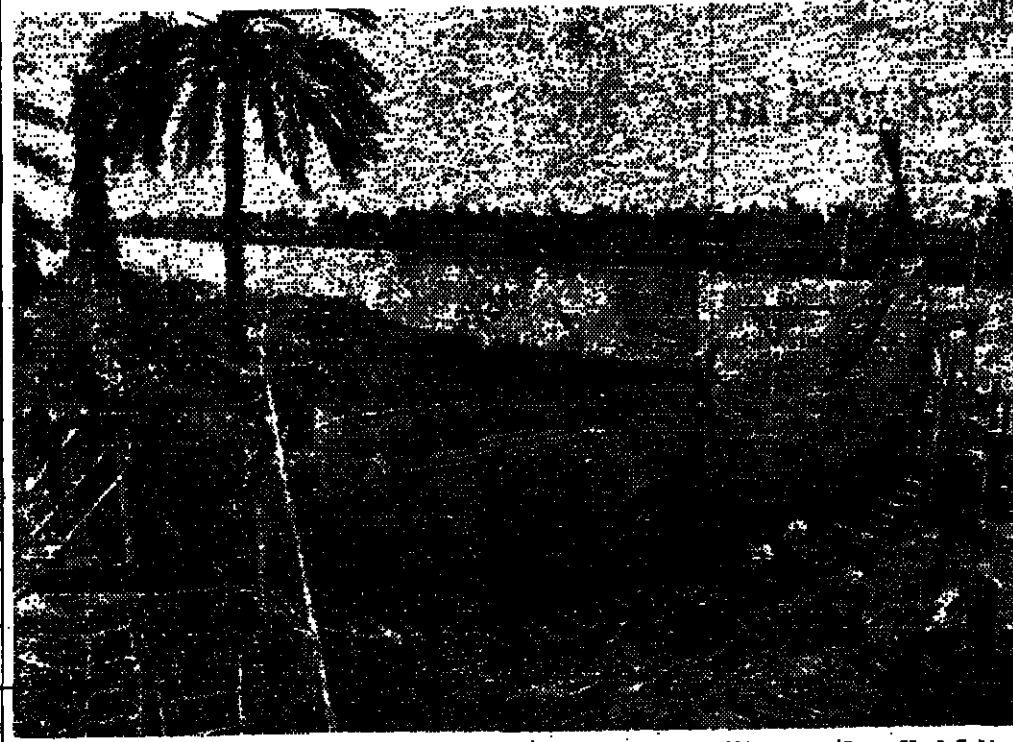
The most likely course of action now is that Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, should deliver it himself when he travels to Europe next month for the regular winter meeting of Nato foreign ministers.

The return of the crown is expected to take place only under certain conditions. The most important of these would be an insistence by the United States that the crown should be put on public display.

The campaign to prevent the return of the crown has been led by Ms Mary Rose Oakar, a Democratic member of the House of Representatives from Ohio, who represents a large Hungarian-American constituency in Cleveland.

To cheer from spectators, she told a House subcommittee yesterday that the present Hungarian regime was "not a Government worthy of receiving this sacred crown". Moreover, its return would repudiate Mr Carter's own human rights policy towards East Europe.

The crown, which was sent as a coronation gift to Stephen, Hungary's first king, by Pope Sylvester II in the year 1000,



Crew members and technicians at Qurna, Iraq, putting the finishing touches to Thor Heyerdahl's reed boat Tigris in which the Norwegian explorer hopes to demonstrate that prehistoric trading links between the Middle East and India were possible.

Falklands talks next month

By Michael Frenchman

The next round of the Falkland Islands talks between Britain and Argentina is to be held in New York in mid-December.

According to informed sources in London, an announcement on the talks which are to be held at ministerial level is expected soon.

Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who visited the islands last February, will be leading the British delegation.

The delegation is expected to include a representative of the islanders, who will be nominated by the Governor in consultation with the recently elected Legislative Council.

The talks are the second to be held this year after preliminary discussions in Buenos Aires on the future of the disputed British colony of 1,900 inhabitants.

Last-century wines found in an American cellar

From Michael Leapman
New York, Nov 10

A cellar crammed with some 500 bottles of valuable vintage wine of the late nineteenth century has been discovered at Albany, the state capital of New York. Test tastings show that the wine, much of it from famous Chateaux of Bordeaux, is in excellent condition and could be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The wine was found in a 180-year-old mansion owned by the local historical association. It will be auctioned next May in Atlanta, Georgia, by Heublein's, a wine and spirit company.

Mr Alex McNally, the firm's international wine manager, made the discovery when he was asked by the building's owners to inspect the cellar. It was known to contain wine, but an official of the association, who died a year ago, had barred inspection of it during his lifetime.

Among wines found in the 20 cases, containing between 12 and 26 bottles each, were

10 Namibian guerrillas die in clash

Windhoek, Nov 10.—South African troops killed 10 black guerrillas in the border area between Namibia and Angola yesterday, defence headquarters here announced today.

The statement said a border patrol came under heavy rocket and machinegun fire. In the counter-attack, 10 guerrillas were shot dead.

The guerrillas were part of a force of between 40 and 50 belonging to the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). There were no South African losses.

Lord Carver denies Africa 'brush off'

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Commissioner-designate for Rhodesia, said on his return to London yesterday that he had not been given the brush off in his recent talks in Africa. The important thing was that African leaders had told him exactly what they thought about the British proposals.

Lord Carver, 67, was at the Foreign Office yesterday to review with Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, the next stage in seeking a Rhodesia settlement. Dr Owen will be making a policy statement in the Commons today.

The two areas of disagreement about a settlement, in Lord Carver's view, are the role of political parties in a transition period to majority rule, and the task of constituting a national army, which would be loyal to the newly elected government in Rhodesia.

Frederick Clery writes from Salisbury: Rhodesia entered its thirteenth year of self-proclaimed independence today.

The Government no longer official recognition than it was when Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, made his dramatic broadcast on November 11, 1965.

Since introducing into the political lexicon the phrase "unilateral declaration of independence" (UDI), Mr Smith has striven to gain international approval and support for his action, but to no avail. He has negotiated with the administrators of three British Prime Ministers, one American Secretary of State, countless British Government officials and politicians and has tried to reach a measure of agreement with various African nationalist factions. Now he appears to have got no further with Lord Carver, and like everyone else, he must be wondering if there is a solution to what has become one of the most protracted postwar political problems.

While Lord Carver and Mr John Graham, the Deputy Under-Secretary at the Foreign

Britain ignores plane sales opportunity

From Arthur Reed
Madrid, Nov 10

Leaders of the world airline industry, with £38,000m to spend on new aircraft during the next 10 years, are being courted by aircraft manufacturers at the annual meeting of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) here.

But all the sales efforts are coming from the American airframe and engine manufacturers. There is no evidence on the fringe of the IATA conference of any representatives from Britain's aircraft industry, nor of its European partners.

The American "big three" manufacturers, Boeing, Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas, plus the engine companies, are in force. Their senior executives can be seen each evening in deep discussion with the airline chairman and their chief officers who will have the final say on which new aircraft types will be bought.

Airline chairmen to whom I have spoken here this week are at a loss to understand why British Aerospace, the nationalized British aircraft industry, and Rolls-Royce are not taking part in this process.

Britain is, after all, hoping to develop and market with its European partners a new 150-seat aircraft based on either a British design, the BAC X1, or a French design, the A200.

Boeing and Douglas have competing projects, the merits of which they are losing no opportunity to sell to their influential and captive audience. Boeing has come here with three airliner offers, all in the 200-seat class. The smallest has two engines and will be able to fly across the United States with one stop, the second has two engines and can cross the United States nonstop, while the third has three engines and a nonstop range of 4,500 miles.

Senior executives of Boeing to whom I have talked here indicate that a plan under which British Aerospace was to have built under licence a European version of the highly successful Boeing 737 airliner has fallen through for lack of commercial agreement.

Boeing was to have supplied the fuselage while British Aerospace made the wings, and the project would have provided many much needed jobs for the British civil aircraft factories which are now rapidly running out of work.

Both Boeing and Douglas are, however, willing to discuss cooperating on building projects with Britain on their new generation of airliners. But the leaders of British Aerospace still have to come to the vital decision of whether they will collaborate with the Americans or with the Europeans.

British Aerospace knows that the biggest world markets will remain open to the products of the American industry, but it also knows it risks deeply offending the French and the West Germans if it turns its back on them.

One encouraging piece of news to emerge for Britain and Europe from behind the scenes at the IATA meeting is that the American airline, United, is about to begin a serious evaluation of the European A300 airliner, a joint project by France, West Germany, Britain, Holland and Spain.

Leading article, page 15

Military ruler decides on elections in Bolivia

By David Watts

President Hugo Banzer of Bolivia has announced that elections are to be held next July, two years earlier than originally planned.

In a radio and television announcement, the army general said that the three-year decree banning political activities would be lifted as would those on union and student activities. The general elections will be the first for 12 years; there have been no local elections for 25 years.

General Banzer did not indicate whether he would be a candidate. He said the lifting of restrictions on political activity should not be regarded as a return to the past.

The announcement coincides with the presence in London of Bolivia's last democratic president, Dr Luis Adolfo Siles, who was deposed after a brief period in rule in 1969. He has recently been active in the human rights movement in Bolivia.

The election announcement left Dr Siles singularly unimpressed. He said there had been systematic elimination of the opposition parties and the peasants had been smashed. The calling of elections at short notice could serve only to give President Banzer an opportunity to legitimize the regime that came to power through a military coup in August 1971.

Dr Siles said the election would allow President Banzer to extend his rule to 1982.

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Supreme Court blessing for General Zia's coup

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, Nov 10

The Pakistan Supreme Court today extended legal sanction to General Zia's seizure of power last July when he dismissed Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister, and imposed martial law. The court also dismissed a petition from Mr Bhutto's wife, Benazir, challenging the detention of her husband and 10 other Government and People's Party officials.

In a 108-page judgment Chief Justice Anwar ul-Haq and eight other judges rejected a unanimous plea that the imposition of martial law was an "extra-constitutional step necessitated by the complete breakdown and erosion of the constitutional and moral authority of the Bhutto Government as a result of the unprecedented protest movement launched by the Pakistan National Alliance against alleged massive rigging of elections in March this year."

The judges found that the imposition of martial law by the Chief of the Army Staff

was validated by the "doctrine of necessity".

The court observed that the constitution adopted by the National Assembly in 1973 was still "supreme" and that President Zia, Pakistan and courts continued to function as before under it. The present period of martial law was described as "a period of constitutional suspension necessitated by grave circumstances."

Mr Bhutto addressed the court for about three hours in addition to making lengthy written statements in which he accused the "chief martial law administrator of overthrowing his constitutional government with foreign backing and described General Zia as being politically motivated in favour of the right-wing theocratic political organization Jamaat-e-Islami.

The Supreme Court refused to free Mr Bhutto and his colleagues but advised them to approach the appropriate high courts under article 199 of the constitution relating to the fundamental rights of citizens.

Canadian Mounties under fire for opening mail

From Our Correspondent
Ottawa, Nov 10

Illegal operations of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have involved tampering with the postal service, it was disclosed here yesterday. Mr Francis Fox, the Solicitor General, told the Commons that "in some instances" the police interfered and opened first-class mail sent by Canadians through the post.

Mr Fox, who has responsibility for the federal police force, confirmed a news report that mail was opened under an operation code-named "Cathedral". Questioned about tampering with mail, Mr Fox told an opposition MP: "It clearly happened in some instances

reporters that no mail has been opened by the "Mounties" since June last year. He refused to be precise as to the number of letters that had been opened.

Mr Fox said he had referred the matter to Mr Ronald Basford, the federal Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. Interfering with the mail is a criminal offence under Canada's Post Office Act.

In recent weeks a number of other illegal activities of the Mounted Police security service have been brought to light, including the burning down of a barn, the theft of ammunition and a "break-in" to obtain the membership list of the separatist Parti Quebecois. The

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OVERSEAS

Israeli leader takes up Sadat offer to visit Jerusalem for peace negotiations in Knesset

From Our Correspondent

Tel Aviv, Nov 10

Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister of Israel, today took up promptly President Sadat's offer to come to the Knesset in Jerusalem to negotiate a Middle East settlement. "By all means," Mr. Begin said, "Welcome," Mr. Begin said.

He later asked visiting United States Congressmen going to Cairo to assure President Sadat that he would be received in Jerusalem with all honours.

Mr. Begin said he would go to Ben-Gurion airport to meet the Egyptian leader.

The exchanges were characterized here as "niceties" that were unlikely to lead to a meeting, but some Israelis said its psychological significance should not be underestimated.

It has been a ritual for Israeli Prime Ministers, from Mr. Ben-Gurion to Mr. Begin, to proclaim on assuming office a readiness to go to Cairo or anywhere in the world to negotiate peace. Arab leaders until recently, however, could not bring themselves to mouth the name of Israel or talk of Jerusalem.

Mr. Begin recalled today that President Sadat not long ago expressed readiness to lose two million Egyptians fighting Israel.

Accordingly, Israelis said, it was heartening to hear that the Egyptian Parliament applauded "thunderously" when the President said he would go to the Knesset, rather than have a single one of his soldiers injured.

Some observers here said Mr. Sadat may have been in "high spirits" after the Americans presented Egypt with a new working paper containing proposals for Geneva peace talks that met Arab objections to the paper drafted by Mr. Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, with President Carter and Mr. Vance, the American Secretary of State, in Washington.

Mr. Begin said he doubted that this report was true as he had a long talk today with Mr. Samuel Lewis, the American Ambassador, and no mention had been made of a new paper. It was unlikely that Mr. Lewis would have withheld such important information.

The meeting with Mr. Lewis focused on the situation in Lebanon and was also attended by Mr. Dayan and Mr. Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister.

Mr. Begin, who was interviewed after the meeting, said it had been agreed to strive to restore the ceasefire and work

for a permanent settlement that would bring peace to the Christians and Muslims in southern Lebanon, as well as to the Jewish population in northern Israel.

Mr. Lewis said the eventual aim was the withdrawal of Palestinians from the border region so that the Lebanese Army could occupy the territory. This would accord with Israel's view.

Mr. Begin said that if civilians were hurt in yesterday's air strikes on guerrilla bases, he regretted it deeply, but he was not going to make apologies for the Air Force action.

He said the defence of our people, he said.

Nahariya, a small seaside town, had been shelled repeatedly by Katyusha rockets supplied by the Soviet Union to the Palestine Liberation Organization. There was quiet on the other side, there would be no further actions.

The Prime Minister said President Sadat's demand for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and for the evacuation of the Gaza Strip was rejected by Israelis "by total consensus." This was not necessarily an obstacle to peace talks, however.

From Georges Harboun

Assise, Nov 10

There is not a house standing today in this small South Lebanese village about nine miles south-east of Tyre, bombed yesterday by Israeli aircraft.

A few walls, a staircase, a doorway left intact, and everywhere destruction. Survivors of the war, stumbling among the ruins, looking for their loved ones and their scraps of belongings among the wreckage of death.

I visited this village and found the people, a mass of hope, trapped in the midst of a war between right-wing Christians, supported by the Israelis, on one side and Palestinian leftists on the other.

Even so they express their disbelief that any "enemy" would have razed in cold blood a completely civilian village to which the military did not have access.

But their complaints, too, are against the Lebanese authorities who have left them abandoned. For many days they have been ignored by outside aid, without food, without medicines and without the equipment to cope with the ruin of their homes.

"We cannot even bury our dead because to do it we would need a bulldozer," one villager stated bitterly.

Sixty-five bodies have been found but there are thought to be many more people buried—some possibly still alive.

A man, with tear marks, scarring the dirt staining his face, was desperately trying to shift a block of concrete. "I am certain they are still alive. I am certain," he said as he sought to find his wife and two sons buried in what was once their home.

Not far away an old woman on her knees in the debris scabbled with her bare hands to find just a few of the belongings which once constituted her domestic life. A boy of about 12, near by crying quietly, the bodies of his mother and father had been dragged from the ruins of his home.—Agence France-Press.

From Edward Mortimer

Cairo, Nov 10

Because the governments of the European Community do not recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Community held up for two years the opening of the "Euro-Arab dialogue" rather than agree to deal with a PLO delegation as the Arabs insisted.

The compromise eventually found in 1976 was to have a single Arab and a single European delegation, without differentiating national labels. This is the same solution which it seems is now accepted by all parties for the resumption of the Geneva conference on Middle East peace.

In fact, there is a PLO delegation within the Arab delegation of the dialogue. Dr. Ahmad Sidiqi Dajani, last March he was elected to the PLO executive, and he is also the Arab co-chairman of the dialogue's cultural commission. He is to be found at the Arab League's Research and Studies Institute in Garden City, Cairo.

The Euro-Arab dialogue is usually thought of as essentially economic and political, with the Europeans looking for ways of taking part in the phenomenal economic growth of the Arab world while the Arabs look to Europe for political support in their negotiations with the United States and Israel.

The third wing of the triptych, in which culture is rather curiously lumped together with labour affairs, has attracted little or no publicity, and perhaps for that reason has been moving relatively smoothly ahead.

I discovered it by accident last week when I met Dr. Derek Hopwood, of St Antony's College, Oxford, an old acquaintance, I was surprised to learn that Dr. Hopwood, who is not an official representative of the British Government in one of the dialogue's subcommittees.

No one had even asked him to sign the Official Secrets Act. Nor was any official holding his hand. Clearly the era of open government is upon us.

But lest Dr. Hopwood should get ideas above his station, the British Embassy sent its most battered vehicle, with the driver's door actually missing, to take him to the airport when he left on Tuesday.

Clearly the British report has been taken to heart as well. A grand symposium is being planned to be held in Hamburg next September, about the relations between European and Arab civilizations, and their role in the contemporary world. Fifty professors and 25

personalities are to attend from each side.

Dr. Dajani told me that the Arab side had suggested holding it in a European city, in the hope of making a bigger impact on the European press and broadcasting corporations.

We have the feeling that we Arabs know much better about European civilization than Europeans know about us," he said. "This is true at the popular level, but much less so at the specialist one."

The Hamburg seminar will in fact be the second that the dialogue has organized. A smaller one, involving only 15 professors on each side, was held in Venice last March and discussed Arab literature and the teaching of Arabic in European universities.

Out of it has come a programme, with a budget, to establish new centres of Arabic teaching in Europe and to strengthen the chairs or departments of Arabic in European universities.

Another project in hand is the establishment of a catalogue of all the institutes on each side which teach the literature or languages of the other side.

A third is a comparative study of history textbooks used in secondary schools on both sides, to find out what European and Arab children are taught about each other.

President defies left-wing critics

From Our Special

Correspondent

Cairo, Nov 10

President Sadat's long, rambling and at times emotional speech to the Egyptian Parliament last night can be seen as defiance of his left-wing critics both at home and abroad.

On the domestic front, his harshest words were reserved for the unrepentant Nasserists, "those who pretend to be ardent supporters of the July (1952) revolution." Obviously, he balanced this with an attack on the would-be heirs of the 1919 revolution, those who are trying to revive the pre-1952 democratic nationalist party, the Wafd.

Both groups, Mr. Sadat said, should have the courage of self-criticism, as he and his supporters had had in launching the "corrective revolution" of May 15, 1971, when he ousted the pro-Soviet group of Mr. Ali Sabri and began the process of liberalization. This process has been praised by the Wafd, which is urging Mr. Sadat to carry it to its logical conclusion.

Mr. Sadat spoke at length of the virtues of democracy, rejecting criticism that the three-party system he has founded is not genuine and claiming that the present Parliament is the first ever to be freely elected in Egypt. He referred to Nasser's economic system as "the socialism of the distribution of goods."

The President promised firm action to suppress both communists and religious extremists who resort to violence. But he also showed sensitivity to the increasingly vocal opposition, said to be financed from Saudi Arabia, promising that "no atheist will be placed in any key position and no force will be permitted to shake the faith of the Egyptian people."

In foreign affairs, Mr. Sadat gave an implicit warning to other Arab countries (notably Syria) that he would not allow them to block the assembly of the Geneva Middle East peace conference by digging in on procedural issues. "Whatever procedural aspect Israel raised, he said, he would agree to it."

To take refuge behind procedural excuses was a sign of frustration and hysteria but, he claimed, were commodities that the Arabs had exported to Israel since the 1973 war. Moreover, he seemed to notice that Egypt saw no point in holding an Arab summit conference at this stage, since there was no new element since the last one, at Rabat in October, 1974.

President Sadat showed a further disregard of traditional Arab sensibilities in making his dramatic offer to go to Jerusalem if necessary for peace talks on the very day when an aircraft had killed more than 300 people in southern Lebanon. Very surprisingly, Mr. Sadat did not even mention this episode (which has been given low key treatment on Egyptian television).

In foreign affairs, Mr. Sadat

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Not a house standing in bombed village

From Georges Harboun

Assise, Nov 10

There is not a house standing today in this small South Lebanese village about nine miles south-east of Tyre, bombed yesterday by Israeli aircraft.

A few walls, a staircase, a doorway left intact, and everywhere destruction. Survivors of the war, stumbling among the ruins, looking for their loved ones and their scraps of belongings among the wreckage of death.

I visited this village and found the people, a mass of hope, trapped in the midst of a war between right-wing Christians, supported by the Israelis, on one side and Palestinian leftists on the other.

Even so they express their disbelief that any "enemy" would have razed in cold blood a completely civilian village to which the military did not have access.

But their complaints, too, are against the Lebanese authorities who have left them abandoned. For many days they have been ignored by outside aid, without food, without medicines and without the equipment to cope with the ruin of their homes.

"We cannot even bury our dead because to do it we would need a bulldozer," one villager stated bitterly.

Sixty-five bodies have been found but there are thought to be many more people buried—some possibly still alive.

A man, with tear marks, scarring the dirt staining his face, was desperately trying to shift a block of concrete. "I am certain they are still alive. I am certain," he said as he sought to find his wife and two sons buried in what was once their home.

Not far away an old woman on her knees in the debris scabbled with her bare hands to find just a few of the belongings which once constituted her domestic life. A boy of about 12, near by crying quietly, the bodies of his mother and father had been dragged from the ruins of his home.—Agence France-Press.

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Palestinian voice raised in dialogue with EEC

From Edward Mortimer

Cairo, Nov 10

Because the governments of the European Community do not recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Community held up for two years the opening of the "Euro-Arab dialogue" rather than agree to deal with a PLO delegation as the Arabs insisted.

The compromise eventually found in 1976 was to have a single Arab and a single European delegation, without differentiating national labels. This is the same solution which it seems is now accepted by all parties for the resumption of the Geneva conference on Middle East peace.

In fact, there is a PLO delegation within the Arab delegation of the dialogue. Dr. Ahmad Sidiqi Dajani, last March he was elected to the PLO executive, and he is also the Arab co-chairman of the dialogue's cultural commission. He is to be found at the Arab League's Research and Studies Institute in Garden City, Cairo.

The Euro-Arab dialogue is usually thought

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Women also work in a lot of jobs we in the West think unsuitable—the building trade for one—but disparaging comments are not necessarily in order. It is too easily forgotten, or not even known, that the Soviet Union suffered 20,000,000 military and civilian casualties in the last war and that it has

A fair amount of drivel has been written in the Western press over the years about Soviet women, much of it irritatingly patronizing. Much criticism is caused, I suspect, by the turgid stream of high-minded rubbish written about women and their socialist vocation. But once one backs a way through the mass of distasteful

In the new Soviet Constitution, which has just been ratified, there is a subtle change of wording on the equal rights

University, and she told me that through the graduate union, she organized meetings to discuss the new constitution, which was one of the first people to propose this new phrasing as an amendment to the draft. The change of wording genuinely reflects the feelings of all the women I interviewed, some highly critical of the régime and other issues, and others who really made it and that they really are equal, or at least as equal as they wish to be.

For example, when I asked Neiva Ramazanova, editor of the

Nor all that many women, she said, wanted to supercharge their lives in this way. Others I talked to confirmed this view. They had got where they wanted in their chosen professions, yet why should they upstage themselves struggling up the Party ladder? And herein lies the key, I feel, to much inequality between the sexes both in the West and in the Soviet Union: lack of ambition. On the other hand, none of them confessed to envy of the hang-ups or guilt feel-

most parents' facilities are on a big scale and will be expanded. Parents may, if necessary, children can stay there from Monday to Friday, only going home at the weekend. This may seem to be an appalling disruption of family life, but for those divorced or for unmarried mothers—called in the constitution "mothers without breadwinners"—it must be salvation.

Older children can remain at school under supervision to do their homework to get rid of the problem of "latch-key"

"I prefer to work myself," No one suggests, either, that the pattern is uniform in all the republics in standards of living or anything else. The government itself is pledged in the new constitution to eliminate the differences between the urban and rural areas where millions of families still have incomes below the official trouble poverty line. Among certain ethnic minorities and religious groupings, equality may certainly be felt but little else, though things are changing fast among the young.

There is one other striking contrast in Soviet society, this one specifically between Russians and non-Russians. The falling birth rate among Rus-

Obviously, with poor birth control methods, three or four abortions are common among Soviet women, and many have far more. Nene I spoke with would admit to having had a gulf or two biological disturbances, and she seemed to feel multiple abortions might be a health hazard. They seem to regard it as no more trouble than a trip to the hairdresser. Elena Petushkova told me she did not think abortion an ideal method of birth control, but she hoped she would be found, but as a biologist she was violently opposed to the pill. Only those with religious beliefs seem to have any qualms about abortion, and in general divorce is seen as far more of a solution for the cause of the children. But the women are becoming more and more fiercely independent about this, too. Wives beside the husbands of the future who will be in the target of much criticism at present.

Foreign Report

and you find villages not only cut off from the cities but also from each other. They frown across the valley to their nearest neighbours, distrustful, resentful. Society shifts, sometimes explodes, without much development. Calabria is a seismic zone, as a Christian Democratic politician remarked.

I once set out to write a biography, which does not exist in English. Neither the seminar nor the man take well to a historical approach. And so

that the Mafia at least offers an impression of efficiency. These are not problems confined to Calabria. They are just much more acute there. Ruffalo would not have been able to supply the answer. But neither does anyone else.

Peter Nicholas

1. CIELI NIEBO

It has made Jerusalem artichokes larger so that they are much easier to peel and it has slightly raised the number of shops with useful vegetables.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.

cheapest food that can be bought at the moment. But they have fallen so much in a year during which the cost of living has continued to rise that they must now be literally the cheapest things that money can buy.

Early this year it seemed impossible to buy home-grown potatoes without finding that some or all of each purchase was badly marred by black spots inside the tubers. This autumn the quality is much higher.

HAG
deodorant and deodorant
pure body

The confident choice since 1820

150

Stock Exchange Prices

Further Progress

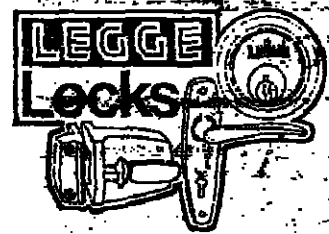
ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Oct 31. Dealings End, Nov 11. \$ Contango Day, Nov 11. Settlement Day, Nov 22

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days



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London Leeds Paris Nice Frankfurt

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BSC proposes to give profitable works bigger share of orders

By Paul Roulledge
Labour Editor

The British Steel Corporation yesterday opened the bidding on cost economies with proposals to shift the diminished order book to profitable works and give "generous compensation" to workers facing redundancy because of the worldwide steel recession.

These proposals were presented by Mr Bob Scholey chief executive of the BSC, to the TUC steel industry committee in the second round of talks on the state industry's cash crisis. Union leaders rejected the first option, but promised to consider the second.

Mr Bill Sira, chairman of the steel committee and general secretary of the industry's largest union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation said British Steel's plan to give preferential bidding to low-cost plants was unacceptable because it would hasten the demise of works rendered unprofitable by the present lack of orders.

But the executives of the steel unions are to consider the proposals on "cost economies" offered by the BSC or 14,000 workers employed at the 12 so-called Beswick plants left open by the Government.

The BSC executive is to meet next week and on Monday Mr Scholey will face the collective wrath of the union's lay leadership in an unprecedented

exercise in industrial relations. He has accepted an invitation to explain BSC policies. Steel union leaders were supposed to have brought to yesterday's talks their own measures for cost savings, but in view of the very short time that had elapsed since the first round of discussions last Friday, British Steel did not seriously expect substantial proposals.

The BSC is not talking figures to a powerful industrial union at this stage, preferring to proceed by consent with the unions. The corporation remembers its unsuccessful attempt to reduce the labour force by 22,000 early in 1976. This ended in a compromise formula that led to a reduction of only about 2,000 jobs which disappeared through natural wastage.

Edward Townsend writes: Out put at the United Kingdom's public and private sector steelworks slumped again last month to a weekly average of 404,200 tonnes, a drop of 45 per cent from the September average and almost 12 per cent lower than in October last year.

In a joint statement, the British Steel Corporation and the British Independent Steel Producers' Association said production generally continued to reflect the very low level of demand for steel products both at home and abroad.

The figures also reflect the impact on steelworks of the recent British Oxygen dispute.

Accounting indemnity cover difficulties

by Nicholas Hirst

Publication of the Cross report is focusing attention on the increasing cost and difficulty of the indemnity cover for accountants. The report is also highlighting the difficulties of obtaining adequate indemnity cover against claims of negligence.

Although the problem is not acute, the forming of a fund on the lines suggested by Lord Cross in his report on the three main United Kingdom indemnity procedures will cause increasing worries. Premium rates have been rising quickly for international firms in the past couple of years, and further increases are expected. The Government is expected to limit liability for accountants.

But many accountants would rather object to any tinkering with the unlimited liability of accountants, and the Government is expected to limit liability for accountants.

With Cross having reported a fall in the number of claims against accountants, the Government is expected to limit liability for accountants.

But if any solution along the lines of a fund which would act as a case of professional competence is decided on, whether such a fund is appointed by Government or by accountants, the incidence of negligence claims, which is already growing, will increase further.

Peat Marwick, Mitchell and Co.

firm that premiums had been increasing, but there were no real problems in finding cover. Touche Ross said it was becoming more difficult to get the amount of cover required, and that premiums had been going up regardless of their own claims experience.

For small and medium-sized United Kingdom firms, the difficulties are not as intense. The English Institute of Chartered Accountants runs a scheme, through insurance brokers, C. L. Bowring, which was set up in 1971. Premiums there are not escalating. Bowring

Policies are put out to Lloyd's and the composite indemnity market, and although a major disaster in another part of the professional indemnity market, such as a claim against an engineering consultancy could have an effect, its repercussions would be more limited than on the international firms.

Here Minet is the leading broker. They explain that after being fairly stable in the early part of the decade, premium rates grew sharply in 1975 and 1976, and are now rapidly deteriorating losses in the class of business, and overall shrinkage of the professional indemnity market.

Claims have increased both in frequency and size and underwriters have been forced to increase rates and increase the proportion of risk met by the profession itself.

Mr. Robert Roosa, who is now widely viewed as a possible successor to Dr Arthur Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, called today for improved management of the dollar's exchange rate.

He also sharply criticized the Carter Administration for "aggressive and abusive" attitudes toward business which were affecting general confidence and thus having an effect on weakening the dollar.

Mr. Roosa, a partner in the Brown Brothers, Harriman investment bank, who has held top positions at the Treasury and the Fed, told the Senate Banking Committee that money does not manage itself and that the United States must get over its "benign neglect" with regard to the dollar.

He proposed that the best means of increasing international monetary stability would be through much closer cooperation between the finance ministers and the central bankers of the United States, Japan and West Germany, with the aim of establishing target zones for the related exchange rates of the dollar, the yen and the Deutsche mark.

Mr. Roosa stressed that to stabilize the dollar there was no alternative to devising means of strengthening the economy to promote more business investment. To achieve this it was vital that there should be a deeper understanding and greater confidence between business and government.

Mr. Roosa, who may have reduced his chances of becoming the next head of the Fed by directly criticizing President Carter's recent complaints about the greed of the nation's oil companies, was reticent in criticizing the Fed.

He did note, however, that he saw the new Fed money growth targets as "mere pretensions" and that in reality the Fed could not actually slow the growth of M2 and M3 without also slowing the growth of M1.

Wall St jumps 14 points

Heavy dealing on Wall Street yesterday saw nearly 32 million shares traded. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped by 14.13 points to close at 832.55.

Analysts said the market felt the Fed had finished its recent credit tightening and that interest rates were levelling off.

Recruitment ruling favours bank union

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

A stimulus to a drive by the National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) to extend its recruitment efforts beyond banking has been delivered by a TUC disputes committee award.

It gives the way for a possible future engagement to Nube by the steel union at the Guardian Royal Exchange, which has been the subject of recruitment ambitions by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS).

The disputes committee has ruled that the orderly development of trade union organization in banking and insurance would be assisted by an agreement that ASTMS should organize insurance workers and keep out of banking, while Nube should organize bank workers and stay out of insurance.

But the disputes committee says that in the absence of a Nube/ASTMS agreement on the subject of insurance by December 5, there would be no justification in standing in the way of a transfer of engagements to Nube by the Guardian Royal Exchange staff union.

In the transfer, however, the disputes committee has ruled that to protect ASTMS members the company should negotiate with Nube and ASTMS.

The Guardian Royal Exchange decided in May to transfer a transfer of engagements to Nube subject to satisfactory transfer terms. The TUC disputes committee investigation has led to a transfer of engagements to Nube members in the firm.

Nube said in evidence to the committee that the ASTMS membership was "not of a technical nature" but was made up of a wide range of staff within the company. The staff union has 5,700 members and negotiates terms and conditions of employment for 7,800 employees.

If the staff union transfers engagements to Nube it will be the first major acquisition by Nube into the insurance sector. At present it has insurance members only in the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office and Sun Life of Canada.

There is enormous membership potential for TUC unions in insurance, Mr. Les Maitland, Nube general secretary, said. He said that his organization has no intention of attempting to move into companies where ASTMS already operates, "which we believe is the only way to ensure that staff unions have a chance to come into a TUC-affiliated union."

He added: "There are large chunks in insurance without representation by a TUC union. It is a priority to get insurance, banking and the City generally into the mainstream of trade unionism."

Improved management of dollar urged

From Frank Vogt
Washington, Nov 10

Mr. Robert Roosa, who is now widely viewed as a possible successor to Dr Arthur Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, called today for improved management of the dollar's exchange rate.

He also sharply criticized the Carter Administration for "aggressive and abusive" attitudes toward business which were affecting general confidence and thus having an effect on weakening the dollar.

Mr. Roosa, a partner in the Brown Brothers, Harriman investment bank, who has held top positions at the Treasury and the Fed, told the Senate Banking Committee that money does not manage itself and that the United States must get over its "benign neglect" with regard to the dollar.

He proposed that the best means of increasing international monetary stability would be through much closer cooperation between the finance ministers and the central bankers of the United States, Japan and West Germany, with the aim of establishing target zones for the related exchange rates of the dollar, the yen and the Deutsche mark.

Mr. Roosa stressed that to stabilize the dollar there was no alternative to devising means of strengthening the economy to promote more business investment. To achieve this it was vital that there should be a deeper understanding and greater confidence between business and government.

Mr. Roosa, who may have reduced his chances of becoming the next head of the Fed by directly criticizing President Carter's recent complaints about the greed of the nation's oil companies, was reticent in criticizing the Fed.

He did note, however, that he saw the new Fed money growth targets as "mere pretensions" and that in reality the Fed could not actually slow the growth of M2 and M3 without also slowing the growth of M1.

Wall St jumps 14 points

Heavy dealing on Wall Street yesterday saw nearly 32 million shares traded. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped by 14.13 points to close at 832.55.

Analysts said the market felt the Fed had finished its recent credit tightening and that interest rates were levelling off.

Mr Matthews supports Fleet Street interests with magazine group

Trafalgar buys Morgan-Grampian

By Desmond Quigley

Mr Victor Matthews, chairman of Beaverbrook Newspapers, is expanding Trafalgar House's publishing business with an agreed £20.5m takeover bid for magazine publishers Morgan-Grampian.

Trafalgar is offering 200p a share cash—a level which Morgan-Grampian's shares have never reached and which compares with a range of between 40p and 170p over the past 22 months. The announcement was made after hours yesterday but earlier Morgan's share price had gained 10p to 150p.

Directors of Morgan and Beaverbrook, principal shareholders representing 51 per cent of the issued shares, have irrevocably agreed to accept the offer.

The offer is conditional on no reference to the Moneypolices would be assisted by an agreement that ASTMS should organize insurance workers and keep out of banking, while Nube should organize bank workers and stay out of insurance.

But the disputes committee says that in the absence of a Nube/ASTMS agreement on the subject of insurance by December 5, there would be no justification in standing in the way of a transfer of engagements to Nube by the Guardian Royal Exchange staff union.

In the transfer, however, the disputes committee has ruled that to protect ASTMS members the company should negotiate with Nube and ASTMS.

The Guardian Royal Exchange decided in May to transfer a transfer of engagements to Nube subject to satisfactory transfer terms. The TUC disputes committee investigation has led to a transfer of engagements to Nube members in the firm.

Nube said in evidence to the committee that the ASTMS membership was "not of a technical nature" but was made up of a wide range of staff within the company. The staff union has 5,700 members and negotiates terms and conditions of employment for 7,800 employees.

If the staff union transfers engagements to Nube it will be the first major acquisition by Nube into the insurance sector. At present it has insurance members only in the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office and Sun Life of Canada.

There is enormous membership potential for TUC unions in insurance, Mr. Les Maitland, Nube general secretary, said. He said that his organization has no intention of attempting to move into companies where ASTMS already operates, "which we believe is the only way to ensure that staff unions have a chance to come into a TUC-affiliated union."

He added: "There are large chunks in insurance without representation by a TUC union. It is a priority to get insurance, banking and the City generally into the mainstream of trade unionism."

Improved management of dollar urged

From Frank Vogt
Washington, Nov 10

Mr. Robert Roosa, who is now widely viewed as a possible successor to Dr Arthur Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, called today for improved management of the dollar's exchange rate.

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year to the end of next March of at least £3.5m compared with £2.7m last year.

Trafalgar's latest foray into publishing is initially costing it more than the £14m it paid to acquire Beaverbrook Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and *London Evening Standard*.

All but four of the 41 magazines published by Morgan are in the business and technical field, they include *The Engineer*, *Chemical Age*, *Accountants Weekly*, *Process Engineering* and *Estates Times*. Eight are published in the United States. Among the more popular publications are *Over 21*, *Record Mirror* and *Weight Watchers*.

Mr Matthews, deputy chairman and managing director of Trafalgar House as well as chairman of Beaverbrook, said last night he intended Morgan should expand its well-

founded base in business publications and use that base to diversify into the more popular sector of the market.

He particularly singled out women's magazines, fashion and sport—areas in which IPC Magazines, part of Reed International, is the market leader. He believed that Morgan's solid earnings base would provide support for Beaverbrook as well as injecting ideas into Trafalgar's publishing division.

He said: "What was lacking in Beaverbrook was that it had newspapers only and had nothing else to support it." With Beaverbrook's publications occupying the more popular sector of the newspaper market, Mr Matthews considered that there was scope for cross-fertilization between newspaper personnel and Morgan's in the new drive to increase Morgan's popular publications.

Morgan was the subject of

an abortive takeover bid early last year, when Communico-Europe, a private Dutch company, made an offer of 70p a share.

The chief shareholders in Communico, holding about two thirds of the equity were three companies, one of which was News International, the vehicle of Mr Rupert Murdoch, and publisher of *The Sun*.

Mr Matthews did not get Morgan's backing for the bid without a fight. Mr Graham Sherrett, Morgan's chairman and chief executive, confirmed last night that there had been several approaches during the week and at least one serious offer, although Mr Murdoch did not renew his interest.

He commented that Trafalgar's backing would provide Morgan with the sufficient muscle for expansion. The six non-executive directors on Morgan's board will resign.

Shell chief airs plan to oil wheels of small firms

Mr Michael Pocock, head of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, one of the world's largest companies, told other big corporations yesterday that if they believed small companies were a necessary part of the economy they would have to pay more than lip service to the idea.

It could mean help with finance, sites, contracts and even the suggestion of ideas for development.

Mr Pocock, who was delivering the Ashbridge Lecture at the Royal Aeronautical Society said that first the big corporations should pay their bills on time. The small business could not afford to wait for cash.

"All of us are schooled in the need to manage cash, but we must resist the temptation to use our bargaining power to the point that it starves the sources of the small business unfairly," he said.

He suggested a four-point programme to help small companies. Big corporations should establish a positive environment policy which recognizes the value of the small enterprise to the total economic system and resolve to support this in action.

This policy should be reflected in purchasing and contracting although it might involve some additional work and supervision from the larger suppliers and contractors.

Small enterprises could also be helped with sites, space and equipment that might be surplus to the needs of larger groups. There was also scope for even more positive help by providing credit or financial pump-priming while the small company was establishing itself. Specialists could be assigned to help with accounting and costing.

"Most of us know of products which are of commercial interest but not worth developing in a large company. Why not encourage smaller people to develop these products against a purchase order for their early production?"

"Why not encourage a retiring employee to take an idea with him, develop it, bring people for the purpose, and sell us back the product for market development? In fact, why not put an entrepreneurial executive to look for such opportunities right now?"

A spokesman for Shell said last night that the company was investigating the possibilities of implementing Mr Pocock's ideas.

Roger Vielvoyle

July economic summit in Bonn expected

By David Blake

An economic summit meeting of the seven largest industrial nations in Bonn next July seems to be emerging as a strong probability. Hopes by the Japanese that they would be asked to host the meeting, which would be the fourth such session of its kind, have run up since last November.

Under such intense criticism from its trading partners that for the heads of state and government to meet in Tokyo would pose the risk of grave embarrassment.

Because previous summits have been held in France (at Rambouillet in November, 1975) the United States (Puebla Rico, June, 1976) and London (May this year), Germany and Japan are the most important countries not to have been invited to stage a session.

The Japanese are likely to be given an informal understanding that they will act as hosts for the 1978 summit if the final decision goes towards Bonn, as seems probable.

The feeling a few months ago was that the meeting would be held in February, before the French elections. However, that seemed to have slipped to the summer of next year, for a number of reasons.

The economic situation in the first half of 1978 is likely to be pretty dismal in most of the seven countries who regularly attend the summit sessions.

These countries are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Since one of the purposes of these meetings has been to enhance the credibility of world leaders, it could be embarrassing for

them to gather at a time when unemployment is rising throughout the world.

The other, and possibly more important, argument for postponing the meeting to July involves the vexed question of representation of the European Community. The five EEC member states who are going to the summit sessions managed to force at least a partial role for the EEC Commission at the London summit, in the face of intense opposition from the French.

France takes over the chair of the EEC Council of Ministers in January next year, and will occupy the seat for six months. During the French chairmanship it might be difficult to get the French to accept any separate EEC representation by the Commission. The Germans, on the other hand, may well be much more amenable to a special EEC session at the top table when they take over at the end of June.

Although past summit meetings have a very dim record of achievement, most of the officials who have been responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the London summit seem to accept that another summit is inevitable at some time, because of the fact that world leaders feel they must operate more effectively if they know each other on a personal basis.

There was even some talk of holding a meeting in Canada, late this year, though that does not seem to have been taken seriously by any responsible officials or government.

Japanese told home demand will have to replace exports as main economic spur

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Nov 10

As the revived yen continued to undermine Japan's competitive power on international markets, Mr. Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister, gave a warning to the nation that the government would have to replace exports in future as the major stimulus for economic growth.

Mr. Fukuda issued this warning in parliament shortly before the dollar closed at 247.375 yen on Tokyo's money markets.

At the same time the semi-official Japan External Trade Organisation released the results of a recent survey which indicates that Japan's traditional customers in Europe, South America and Asia have turned to Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong since the value of Japan's currency appreciated to the unprecedented level of 250 yen to the dollar last month.

Addressing the lower house of the Diet, Mr. Fukuda said in previous years exports had acted as the major stimulus for economic growth.

But those days were over, he declared, and said the Government would adopt a new policy of expanding public spending to stimulate domestic demand.

Pointing out that "we can no longer rely on exports to create demand", Mr. Fukuda said the Government would have to take steps to stimulate domestic demand if Japan hopes to achieve a 6.7 per cent growth rate this year.

Exports will serve as a negligible factor in expanding economic growth in future. The important thing is to create demand in the midst of the problems of overcapacity and unemployment", he said.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Real growth from a healthy Boots

Like Marks & Spencer, which turned in an per cent volume gain on non food items in its first half, Boots has been able to achieve real growth in United Kingdom retailing of around 2½ per cent in the six months to end September. This alone should be enough to overcome the market's nervous initial response to yesterday's figures, particularly as profits are 26.4 per cent ahead at £47.6m despite "intense price competition" in retailing which has tended to keep the pressure on gross margins.

Retailing aside, Boots' expanding industrial pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals business is clearly going well, though recent acquisitions in the United States, Germany and Canada are not included at this stage. What is clear too is that Boots is presenting a conservative picture at this stage, retelling has been taken at \$1.65, for example.

So there is no reason for the market to lower its expectations for the year. Profits should be around £120m, for earnings of around 16p, and while a yield of under 1 per cent and a p/e ratio of 14 at 224p underlines the premium status there is no reason to think that it is not justified on a year view of likely consumer spending trends and the benefits arising from store modernization which are now being pushed through.

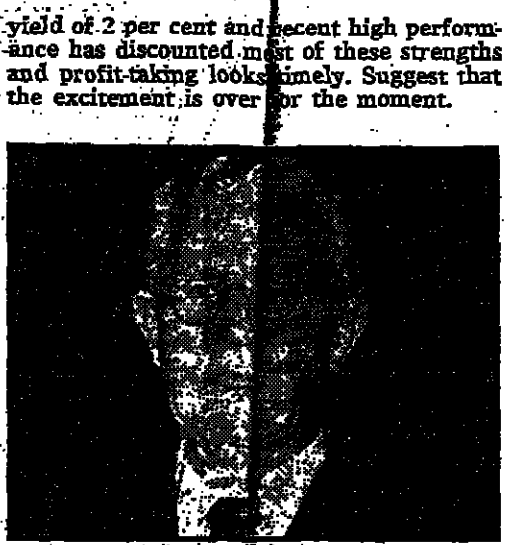
V. H. Smith

A Jubilee bonus

The Silver Jubilee and a poor summer ushered volume at W. H. Smith up by 5.7 per cent in magazines and 2.1 per cent in periodicals. Combined with a strong wholesaling performance due to higher cover prices and reasonable wage costs, this ushered pretax profits for the eighth month of October 1 up by 43 per cent to £4.6m. Stripping out profits on property sales leaves underlying growth of 35 per cent, which compares well with other retail suits recently. Christmas prospects look good; certainly the first marginal effects of x handouts and higher wages would suggest the chain will benefit more than last year when pre-Budget buying put the emphasis on consumer durables.

On the longer view, floorspace has increased modestly by 5 per cent this year it should be up to 7 per cent next year. There is a substantial operational gearing effect from these increases as they allow rights to augment its traditional lines with gher margin items.

This year £19.5m pretax profits are likely to be expected. But the shares, up 25p at 5p yesterday helped by market approval the splitting, are in line with the sector a prospective p/e ratio of 15, while a



Ultramar, whose chairman is Mr Campbell Nelson (above), has been one of those companies whose share price has lived more on expectation than reality. It has paid no dividend and has geared itself highly to finance its Indonesian natural gas development. But at last it is starting to deliver the goods. In August it began first shipments of LNG to Japan. Not only has production begun earlier than scheduled, but it has gone unusually smoothly, the plant has turned out to be capable of producing at 120 per cent of anticipated output and the talk now is of putting in extra productive capacity next year. Japanese sales are, in any case, due to double early next year, by which time Indonesia will be contributing a big slice of total profit, although probably less than half.

In the meantime the impact is clear enough in the nine-month figures. Pre-tax profits are more than doubled at £15.4m, within which the effect of the LNG coming on stream is third-quarter profits of £7.5m, October £2.4m last year. At the same time Ultramar is well over the hump of its spending programme, capital investment totalling only £10.5m against £25.7m in the first nine months of last year. There is, admittedly, some North Sea development to fund, but in the context of Ultramar's soaring cash flow—£18.5m at the nine-month stage—it should pose no problems.

One catch is that while the Quebec refinery is trading well, the weakness of the Canadian dollar has meant a £2.1m exchange loss compared to a £7.7m profit last year. More fundamentally the question is whether the shares, 222p yesterday, will run out of excitement now the LNG is coming through, although the prospective p/e ratio of less than 10 is undemanding and the asset backing strong.

The controversy about the use of North Sea oil profits has become too political.

There are legitimate political points, but on examination they resolve themselves into familiar arguments about the appropriate balance between the public and private sectors, between tax cuts and expenditure increases as methods of sharing the Government's slice of the North Sea revenues.

It is right that these questions are aired among politicians, but in my view only those politicians who have held or sat near to the office of Chief Secretary to the Treasury have a proper understanding of the confused political nature of the choices: choices between more for old age pensioners, and less taxes for the average working man; between more nursing help in crowded hospitals and the introduction of a reduced rate band of income tax for young workers; between more rolling stock for suburban commuters' railway lines, and a lower rate of value-added tax.

North Sea oil will ease these choices a little, but to the economist there are more fundamental questions raised by the North Sea. I will list the most important as I perceive them, and concentrate on the discussion of two of them.

The problems most discussed in the last few months have been those of the balance of payments, the exchange rate, monetary policy and the "competitiveness" of manufacturing industry. Two stereotypes views have been developed.

On the one hand, there are those who argue that, on the brink of the same sort of "virtuous circle" process as the Japanese or West German economies going in the 1950s, those countries have developed an artificial balance of payments surplus because of restrained domestic demand and good performance from a few export trades—our industrial push would be given by the North Sea.

Investment

But irrespective of where the push comes from, the same cumulative processes work: a buoyant exchange rate, continued moderation in wage demands (at least in the German case), low interest rates, financial confidence, and good relations abroad lead to accelerated investment in manufacturing trades; and finally, the benefits of increasing productivity and self-sustaining technical progress bring industrial dominance in highly advanced technology advanced export trades.

On this stereotype, we should welcome the North Sea's recent boost to the sterling exchange rate, and allow the combination of our balance of payments surplus and tight monetary policy to push up the price of sterling, temper inflation, and give a further impulse to real wage increases in this critical year

North Sea oil and the economy—3

A help, but not the whole answer to our problems

Michael Posner, right, contributes the final article in a series by leading economists on the implications for the United Kingdom of the North Sea oil revenues



for counter-inflationary progress.

The other stereotype view holds that an appreciating exchange rate of this sort will rapidly whittle away the balance of payments surplus, as manufacturing imports flood into a buoyant consumer market against weak price competition from British manufacturers.

The rate of increase in labour costs per unit of output in the manufacturing trades would not be much moderated when measured in sterling, compared with what would otherwise have taken place; and the risk is that these costs would rise sharply when measured in Deutschmarks, because the exchange rate would be appreciating.

Levels of output and employment in the non-North Sea sector of the British economy would then be lower than they would otherwise have been, real income per head in the United Kingdom as a whole would not have been much changed by the North Sea, and we would all on average be able to enjoy much the same level of consumption for rather less work.

Hardly a very exciting prospect for a country in which industrial production is now barely above the level of 1970.

This issue has already been explored in the columns of *The Times*, and I would only add that to me the second stereotype view is more plausible, and that therefore, join those who lean towards keeping the exchange rate down in the next year or two, and regret its recent rise.

NRDC—this is your life

A year in the life of the National Research Development Corporation tends to be measured by those outside it in terms of financial performance.

The Corporation's 1976-77 record in this respect, as Lord Schon, the chairman, reported last week, was good.

The NRDC's main earners of licence revenue, the annual report indicated, continued to include the Cephalosporin antibiotics, a product of Oxford University and the Medical Research Council.

Among the Corporation's "special projects", continued development of hovercraft were again reported.

But, behind the well-known successes—like Cephalosporin and hovercraft, also reported—there is a host of other projects, some of which are of a wide range of less spectacular development and exploitation projects. Some of these may prove to be the Corporation's most important of tomorrow.

One hundred new development projects were set up by the NRDC during 1976-77, ranging from building boards to aircraft wings. These include:

1—A project to produce building boards from waste plastics in which the National Freight Corporation had a valuable interest. On interest in reprocessing film material for recycling as bulk products; the other in developing products made by fusing mixed granulated plastics by direct heating.

These came together in a record in that boards built up from a central layer of relatively brittle mixed material, clad and reinforced by the thermoplastic material derived from film. A new company, Reclaim International, was formed to develop the process; the NRDC has provided additional development finance.

2—An ingenious electronic network analyser has been developed by Network Analysis Ltd with NRDC support to simulate the fluid flow in a water or gas pipeline network. Electrical current and potential represent the flow rate and pressure of the fluid in the pipe, and various electronic units reproduce the behaviour of pipeline elements such as pipes, consumers, sources and valves.

The instrument can also analyse the flow of ventilation air in mines; the company has supplied a large system for this purpose to the United States Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration.

3—Diagnosis of certain forms of heart disease requires the measurement of the internal structure and functioning of the heart. Normally, a special catheter is inserted in a vein or artery and is advanced through the body to reach the heart and obtain the needed information.

world oil price in real terms, deriving in turn from one's assessment of the future balance of supply and demand of energy.

If you expect world energy prices to go up around 5 per cent a year until the end of the century (trebling between now and the year 2000), and you believe also that the future should be discounted, when compared to the present, at a rate of about 4 per cent a year (the return on capital in real terms has fallen even below that level in the past few years); then it is smart to hang on to our oil rather than deplete our reserves very rapidly during the early 1980s.

Committed

And such slower depletion would diminish the upward pressure on sterling.

If, on the other hand, you believe that real oil prices will rise less rapidly, or believe that the rate of time discount to apply is markedly more than 5 per cent per year, then we might as well get the benefits from the North Sea as quickly as possible, and all the problems of how to use that benefit must be faced now.

In the last few months of the relevant depletion decisions for the next few years are irrevocably committed, and our freedom of action such as it is refers more to the period from 1985 onwards.

I would be inclined myself to deplete slower in that period, rather than faster, but those economists who are more sceptical than I am about future energy crises will take a different line. In any case, the horizon for my present anxieties about the British economy is set, I will confess, well before the mid-1980s, and therefore I do not find great deal of macro-economic interest in the depletion problem at the moment.

I prefer to stress a third set of issues, on which my views

have been moderated recently, in one and the same direction, as a result of discussion with normally such divergent influences as Professor Lord Kahn and Mr. Sanjiv Kumar.

This concerns the question of the target balance of payments surplus on current account over the next seven years. I had previously thought that common sense dictated that we should keep that surplus as low as was consistent with paying off the long-term obligations incurred by the United Kingdom public sector, mostly in foreign currency, during the balance of payments struggles of the period 1967-76.

This, it seemed to me, need involve a current account surplus of no more than £2,000m per year over the period, even allowing for a little rebuilding of foreign exchange "reserves" as well. All the rest of the North Sea induced surplus (perhaps an additional amount of as much as £3,000m or £4,000m per year over the whole period) could be "blown" as I saw it, in expansion of employment and output in the home economy in the traditional way.

If we could afford an extra £4,000m of imports, this means that we could afford an extra £15,000m of home output, which would virtually wipe out the losses from the severe slump of the mid-1970s.

This expansionist view is of course supported by the argument that all OECD countries taken together should be running a deficit, as the counterpart of the Opec surplus—and the United Kingdom should not make this effort more difficult of achievement by running on its own a large surplus.

Alas, I now think that this optimistic view is not quite correct. This is not just because I am concerned (as an ordinary citizen, not a monetarist in any sense) about the possible stimulus to wage inflation that would be given by any large fiscal or monetary relaxation

in the next few months; nor is it because I see some mystic beauty in the reinvestment of the North Sea assets in some other foreign security.

It is because I am worried about the addition effects, and the subsequent withdrawal effects, as we first take on and then disperse with the North Sea bonanza.

I think this point is distinct from the specifically exchange rate and competitiveness concerns with which I commenced this discussion. It is based on the simple notion (subject to attack from those who are not technical economists—that is why I expose my flank in so open a manner) that we British are restrictionist in spirit, far readier to accustom ourselves to higher levels of consumption than to higher levels of production opportunities.

In technical language, I am asserting that the marginal propensity to import may turn out to be pretty high, not because "the demand elasticities are low" but because "the supply elasticities are low": a low level of the exchange rate is more likely to be dissipated in price increases if our factories, public or private, are slow to react.

Under these circumstances, I believe that the North Sea revenues must initially be used to rebuild our reserves, to reduce our position as a net debtor, so as to put us in the position to allow with confidence the expansion of the economy when the internal obstacles to expansion are removed.

In formal terms, I suggest that the North Sea provides one of the necessary conditions for a substantial step forward for the British economy, but is not in itself a sufficient condition.

Extra growth

Those to whom this conclusion is uncongenial can reflect, as I have done, on the following simple proposition. At best, the North Sea will bring us in something like 4 per cent of the gdp, every year, for upwards of a decade. This is jolly nice, but it is no more than equivalent to one year's extra growth in output.

If, because of its special aid to the balance payments, it can be used skillfully to create the conditions by which several extra years' growth in output could be achieved, or even, at a lower and more realistic level of expectations, just allow us to return to the degree of capacity utilization common in the 1960s, that would be a splendid result. But if it were allowed to inhibit such a desirable outcome, then that extra slice of 4 per cent could be easily lost elsewhere.

My conclusion therefore is that the North Sea might make it easier to solve some of our problems, but does not in itself represent such a solution.

The author is Reader in Economics at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Inco and the nickel crisis

Co's preliminary prospects for its latest oil raising operation reads rather like the ripe for a tragedy. Not only has its total minime of the nickel market collapsed, but its balance sheet has been savaged, but it is also been downgraded by Moody's from A to A-

NICKEL			
	Nickel Demand (millions of pounds)	Inco's Sales as a Percentage of Demand	Inco's Sales as a Percentage of Demand
10	290	256	88%
20	520	352	68%
30	1,060	519	49%
40	1,380	548	40%
50	980	351	36%
60	1,180	410	35%
70	1,180	348	30%
7 estimate			

Existing and planned production and price may not be enough, for the prospects that "further action may be required". The scale of the problems confronting not just Inco but also the rest of the industry can be judged by the fact that by as far back as May Inco raised a net \$9m through a preferred share issue. So, details have not been released of the rest preferred issue, but judging by the up's prognosis of its own situation and that confronting the industry \$100m would seem to be the starting point.

By the end of September total borrowings had risen to \$1,385m from \$1,225m at the beginning of the year and stood at 76 per cent of shareholders' funds as increased by the preferred share issue in May.

The table shows just how severely Inco's dominance of the industry has been eroded, although it is still by far the largest non-communist producer. By implication the picture was even bleaker in the first-half because the company talks of its market share having "declined sharply", although it believes that it will have 30 per cent over the full year.

Market conditions are such that by the end of September, Inco's inventory had reached 308 million pounds of finished nickel, compared with a "normal" level of 100 million pounds. The inventory is almost the same size as the total group output of 314 million pounds in the first nine months of the year and dwarfs the group's sales of 233 million.

Meanwhile Inco has stopped posting its prices publicly, but admits that nickel prices remain weak and under pressure and that the average net prices now being realized are lower than the \$2.15 a pound it received in the third quarter.

The industry clearly faces a long haul, as I suggested recently, and to add to all its other problems, Inco is going to have to carry the Guatemala project which will cost it dearly.

A year in the life of the National Research Development Corporation tends to be measured by those outside it in terms of financial performance.

The Corporation's 1976-77 record in this respect, as Lord Schon, the chairman, reported last week, was good.

The NRDC's main earners of licence revenue, the annual report indicated, continued to include the Cephalosporin antibiotics, a product of Oxford University and the Medical Research Council.

Among the Corporation's "special projects", continued development of hovercraft were again reported.

But, behind the well-known successes—like Cephalosporin and hovercraft, also reported—there is a host of other projects, some of which are of a wide range of less spectacular development and exploitation projects. Some of these may prove to be the Corporation's most important of tomorrow.

One hundred new development projects were set up by the NRDC during 1976-77, ranging from building boards to aircraft wings. These include:

1—A project to produce building boards from waste plastics in which the National Freight Corporation had a valuable interest. On interest in reprocessing film material for recycling as bulk products; the other in developing products made by fusing mixed granulated plastics by direct heating.

These came together in a record in that boards built up from a central layer of relatively brittle mixed material, clad and reinforced by the thermoplastic material derived from film. A new company, Reclaim International, was formed to develop the process; the NRDC has provided additional development finance.

2—An ingenious electronic network analyser has been developed by Network Analysis Ltd with NRDC support to simulate the fluid flow in a water or gas pipeline network. Electrical current and potential represent the flow rate and pressure of the fluid in the pipe, and various electronic units reproduce the behaviour of pipeline elements such as pipes, consumers, sources and valves.

The instrument can also analyse the flow of ventilation air in mines; the company has supplied a large system for this purpose to the United States Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration.

3—Diagnosis of certain forms of heart disease requires the measurement of the internal structure and functioning of the heart. Normally, a special catheter is inserted in a vein or artery and is advanced through the body to reach the heart and obtain the needed information.

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NRDC's commitment is planned to continue over several years—provided that

appropriate design targets are met, and that the market expands as predicted. As with other projects, the NRDC support is planned to continue beyond development and into the production phase.

6—Following experiments at the University of Nottingham, a weather-room heating system, which uses a long slot near the floor instead of the conventional grilles, has been installed and is being evaluated in a church near Walsford.

This technique provides a "Coanda" effect which causes the carpet of heated air to cling to the floor instead of rising towards the ceiling. The corporation is seeking licensees for the system.

7—in an unusual type of venture, aerodynamics work at Cranfield Institute of Technology, is being supported. Smartly built, the wings of an aircraft can reduce drag and may give other benefits: wind-tunnel and in-flight testing is continuing.

8—The demand for toughened glass for office windows and patio doors is expected to increase. Normal window glass is

toughened by heating and air quenching, setting up stresses in the glass which increase its strength.

A novel design of horizontal glass-toughening furnace is being implemented by T. N. Butler (Weybridge). Horizontal types (where the glass is supported horizontally and not hung vertically) have advantages, and the Butler design should be much smaller and cheaper than existing horizontal furnaces.

These are typical of the corporation's current projects, many of which are conducted on a joint-venture basis with industry.

For the future, the NRDC plans to improve its ability to attract new business with the appointment of three new board members—Mr. Steven Doherty, Mr. John Scholes and Mr. David Thompson—to be responsible for marketing, engineering and finance respectively.

Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

Business Diary: Hodgson's choice • A Raw deal?

for ICI the boardroom was that has characterized changes in some other, if more arrisive, organizations. Maurice Hodgson, who is to succeed Sir Rowland Wright as chairman, is not an outsider, so does not break with precedent. He is also, at the oldest and the longest of the three deputy chairmen—a fourth gap-bridge deputy, Stanley Lyon, is retired in March.

Hodgson, the planner and rether of the trio, has been deputy chairman for five years. Ray Pennock (who is 57) two years and Bill Duncan, is 55, came in only last year.

One time it looked as if changeover might not be so smooth as this, partly because it began to seem as if Sir Rowland, who has been in the firm only for two and a half years (40 years with ICI) might be thinking of staying on after group's customary retirement age of 62.

It began to be by no means clear that Hodgson would take over from Sir Rowland, and when he did decide to, the new chairman has some time suffered from trouble, a particular disadvantage in this job, which involves a lot of travelling. Luckily a recent operation seems to have put things right. He is as active in leisure as in business, enjoying horse-racing, fishing and swimming.

Hodgson, a Yorkshireman, read chemistry at Oxford and joined ICI 35 years ago. His responsibilities as a director have included chairmanship of the Americas territorial and the textiles policy groups and the capital programme committee.

Fall out from the Slater-Walker affair continues to drift into the most unexpected places. A hostile review of Charles Raw's book Slater, Walker—an investigation of a financial phenomenon in a recent edition of the *Hampstead and Uxbridge Express* brought forth a letter in reply from Raw, which the paper declined to publish in full.

The review was by Malcolm Horsmann, a former Slater lieutenant. He contributes regularly to the paper on a freelance basis.

Raw, understandably enough, felt that Horsmann was not the most independent of commentators on a book that attacked Slater, Walker. Moreover, the review said that Charles Raw had sought employment with Slater, Walker in 1970.

Why has Jim Slater himself not revealed this tantalizing detail in any of his extensive press and television defences against Raw's assertions? It is because, according to Raw, the

statement is not true, though he is aware that some unknown person has been spreading the rumour.

The nearest that it is to the truth, according to Raw, is that he was once invited to lunch at Slater, Walker some time after a former girl friend of his married Simon Pendock, a former Slater, Walker, director—yes, this story has romance, too.

The possibility of employment featured heavily in the discussions, but in no way, he claims, did he ask for, or even consider, a job with the group.

Will he sue? Probably not—after all the litigation over the Slater book he seems to have had enough of lawyers' offices. But since Raw has sworn an affidavit to the effect that the story is not true, he is understandably annoyed that it is still being put about.

The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) annual convention (described by Lord Moran, British Ambassador to Portugal, as "probably the biggest contingent of his fellow countrymen to come there since Wellington's Army") started moving home yesterday with a warning that this conference may be the last of its type.

In her closing address Margo Hook, ABTA's new president,

said she wanted to see a working party set-up to consider the whole convention concept.

The trouble is that out of the 1,900-plus people there this year, fewer than 300 represented retail travel agents. Furthermore, those travel agents who did come seemed apathetic about the various threats to their future discussed from the platform.

Without the travel agents the frequently lavish displays at the associated trade fair by airlines, shipping companies, car hire firms and the national tourist boards resembled musicians who, having brought their harps to the party, were not asked to play.

In a special behind-the-scenes meeting of its national council ABTA has now decided to strengthen its retailer representation and Mrs Hook, called the "smiling aggress", hopes that steps will be taken to woo back the retailers to next year's conference. But one of her ideas is for smaller, more intimate sessions to encourage more audience participation.

Whatever the format, though, the venue for the 1978 ABTA conference has been decided. It is to be at the new Costa del Sol convention centre near Torremolinos, in Spain.

This year everyone is full of praise for the Portuguese hosts,

who even though they had a tendency to switch venues for the main social events at the last moment, have succeeded in charming even the hard-bitten British travel trade.

A sad little tale is related in the current edition of *Civil Engineering*, a magazine for an industry which has had little to smile about in recent years. It seems that a team of British mountaineers, lacking the "unconquered" *Tyrra Egeria* in *Paragon*, took with them some packing coated with a substance called "Decadex", produced by Liquid Plastics, of Preston. The coating was applied so that the packaging could be dismantled on site and reassembled in the form of a hut which would withstand the worst of weather.

And it did, surviving 80 mph gales and torrential rains and, besides, being the plane journey to Buenos Aires, 300 miles of dirt track, travel in an old truck and a mule trek into the foothills. The hut remains as dry as a bone, the mountaineers reports, and Liquid Plastics were looking forward to examining the coating for wear.

Sadly, it was not to be. A gang of Paraguayan bandits got to it before them and set fire to the whole thing, burning it to the ground.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Late rally as small buyers come in

Equities and gilts stayed in the grip of indecision and uncertainty but a late rally in the FTSE 100 index was seen as a sign of a bullish view of the day's events.

The FTSE 100 index, 33.3 up at 3 pm, closed 7.4 to the good at 489.7 as light buyers came in while on the fixed-interest pitches longer maturities, neglected in earlier trading, ended three quarters of a point better.

Early firmness on the industrial pitches stemmed from a general feeling that the power workers' industrial action was crumbling and that the threat of even more severe measures was receding.

Large investors were encouraged by the Prime Minister's tough statement on wages in Parliament and, more particularly, by the ministers from a confrontation with the Government in the immediate future.

European Ferries hardened 1 1/2 to 53p while the market under the aegis of the plans to do with its stake in Furness Withy which does not want a bid. Meanwhile there is talk that Euroferries has trouble with a bulk carrier under construction it bought with a charter of 10 years ago. The talk is that the Oslo group which chartered the vessel is in dire straits. Apparently creditors will meet on January 15 to decide whether the group liquidates or not. Euroferries says "the commercial impact on us will be minimal at worst."

Results from two major groups put the spotlight on the stores sector. After an initially uncertain reaction to figures from Boots the share ended 4 1/2 lower at 224p but the statement from W H Smith contained all that dealers had been hoping for including the long-awaited share split. The "A" shares closed 25p to the good at 325p. Elsewhere in the sector Sainsbury continued to react to Wednesday's warning on margins losing another 9p for a close of 220p but Tesco was surprisingly firm at 47p, half a point better.

The drinks pitch had a firm look even though figures from the independent Boddingtons had the shares a couple of pence lower at 124p. The annual report of Highland Distillers lifted the price 7p to 100p and

others gaining ground included Guinness 5p ahead to 190p and Distillers where the rise was 4p to 163p.

On the bid scene Morgan Grenfell rose another 10p to 165p ahead of the news of terms worth 200p from Kralinger House Investments which were also better, by 3p to 141p. Speculative interest brought some good gains for Western Brothers at 58p and Miln Marsters which went ahead several pence, to 235p in a thin market. For the last named a Swedish stake is a continuing incentive. Goode Durrant went up 4 1/2 to 255p after news of the sale of a subsidiary.

Abrasive International were 3 1/2p better at 22p before they were suspended on news of a possible takeover approach.

The recently-troubled East Midlands Press dipped 3p to 70p while on the other side of the market a rights with the shares trading at 23p. Higher hopes on the Daily Mirror closed gave a firmer look to Reed International which held steady at 130p after several days of retreat.

Though trading was generally thin the "blue chips" scored some of the best gains of the day. Standing out were Unilever which rose 6p to 566p, Becton 5p to 630p, Pilkington 3p to 503p, Boveri 6p to 169p and ICI 3p to 389p, the last named

helped by some degree of buying for the next account.

Buildings were flat though there were signs of life in the speculative Marchwood which ended 7p to the good at 255p, and Tilbury Contracting which rose 4p to 244p. But BIF came under some pressure ending the session 3p off at 224p.

Also in retreat was Ultramar which lost 3p to 222p after nine months figures which failed to live up to the market's best hopes. Oil Exploration was another loser in ground the shares closing 4p lower to 272p. Foods featured, Tate & Lyle, which was supported at 189p, up 6p on the day.

In spite of a loss Common Brothers firmed 2p to 190p after several weeks of losing ground. Furness Withy, up 3p to 339p, was another to move higher.

After the less than pleasing figures from General Accident earlier the insurance sector had a firmer look with Sun Alliance rising 5p, to 590p, Phoenix 4p to 480p and brokers Higgs, Robinson 7p to 180p and Willis Faber 5p to 272p. General Accident itself ended a couple of points to the good at 242p.

Some of the firmest spots in the market were to be found again in the clearing banks which continued to make headway on recent favourable figures. The best was Midland, up 10p to 365p.

A big boost in the dividend had Park Farms again a strong market, rising 20p to 265p and ahead of figures due soon Wilkinson Match ended 6p to the good at 189p. Treble profits from Tate of Leeds lifted the shares 3p to 36p.

As this week's selling dried up, Glaxo held steady at 55p. One seller is reported to have been getting rid of up to 25,000 shares a day this week, but the bid is now thought to have finished. The shares have now fallen a long way from the 643p at the start of the account, a level mainly achieved on wide spread, talk of a dividend-boasting acquisition.

After four short-dated gilts improved, a fraction, on the Prime Minister's words.

Many of the leading industrialists went another penny or so better, and Boots managed to get back some of its earlier fall. Equity turnover on November 10 was 16,857m (16,855 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to "Exchange Telegraph", were ICI, BAT, DfD, Becham, Britannia, Arrow, Royal, Distillers, Ultramar, BP, Sainsbury, Courtauld, BP, partly-paid, Eagle Star, Shell, Orme Development, Barclays, General Accident, Wilkinson March and Highland Distillers.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Alm Ltd (1)	(—)	1.5(1.1)	—	1.0(0.8)	3/1	(3.8)
Alm Ltd (2)	(—)	0.15(0.23)	—	0.15(0.23)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (3)	(—)	0.55(0.55)	—	0.55(0.55)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (4)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (5)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (6)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (7)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (8)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (9)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (10)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (11)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (12)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (13)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (14)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (15)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (16)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (17)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (18)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (19)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)
Alm Ltd (20)	(—)	1.3(1.2)	—	2.0(2.0)	9/12	(2.5)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown a gross basis. To establish gross dividends multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A Loss: £ Forecast: £ Ym.

Middle East link plan by Benfield

Benfield and Loxley, which has not paid an ordinary dividend for the past two years, is planning to forge a link with Middle Eastern interests.

Subject to exchange control permission, an agreement has been signed with Grange Nominees, a Guernsey-registered company, which holds 145,000 ordinary shares in Benfield (14.3 per cent) as nominee for Middle Eastern Enterprises (Guernsey), a Guernsey-registered firm which is owned by the Trustees of a foreign settlement under which Mr Waleed Kundi is a discretionary beneficiary.

If shareholders agree, Mr D. W. Olney, chairman of Benfield, and Grange, acting as nominee for Middle Eastern Enterprises, will each subscribe for 75,000 ordinary shares at 20p each, being the par value of the shares. This substantially exceeds the current market value of the shares.

At the same time, Mr D. W. Olney, Mrs K. Olney and the Trustees of the family settlement for the benefit of Mrs Olney's children, will enter into options entitling Grange to acquire on or before December 31, 1979, a further 48,679 ordinary shares in Benfield at 12p a share, so as to enable the interests of Grange to equal those of the Olney family.

Following the passing of the ordinary resolution and completion of the subscription arrangements, Mr D. W. Olney will transfer to Grange 40,000 shares in Benfield, being part of his current holding, at 12p a share.

Pending the exercise by Grange of the options, Mr Olney will hold 280,800 shares (24.96 per cent) of the enlarged capital and Mrs Olney and the Trustees of her family's settlement will together hold 154,856 shares (13.69 per cent) and Grange 337,488 shares (29.9 per cent). Mr Kundi will be invited to join the board. He is the managing director of one of the largest furniture companies in Dubai.

EMAP pay 25pc more with 'rights'

By Our Financial Staff
News of the cash call came with the promise of a 25 per cent rise in total dividends this year. A final payment of 3p gross will give shareholders a total of 5.5p against 4.3p, and the Treasury agrees.

In the 28 weeks to October 15 the group made pre-tax profits of £803,000 against £365,000 on turnover up from £7.3m to £9.7m. This upward trend is expected to continue as Mr Francis Rogers, chairman, forecasts profits for the year of around £1.35m, an increase of just over a quarter on £1.07m.

In the period to mid-October each of the five companies in the provincial newspaper division substantially improved on last year's results, despite the prolonged journalists' strike at

Kettering. Production difficulties there are gradually being overcome and the sales of the Evening Telegraph are rising slowly.

In the contract printing division, work is on schedule for the erection of the new contracts press. Provisions amounting to £1.35m have been made for additional costs.

Results from the group's weekly publications are also up and an increase in advertising rates, at the beginning of last month should help the second half figures.

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ITT looks to record 1977 results

International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, the American conglomerate with interests in insurance, finance and natural resources, continued overall growth in both domestic and foreign operations which underpinned a 19p rise in the share price, down 3p to 69p yesterday.

The cash will be used to strengthen the capital base and help in financing future growth. The 1976 nine-month period included a gain of 67 cents a share on the sale of its 68 per cent interest in Le Matériel Téléphonique, a French unit.

Mr Genes said that third quarter earnings were increased by 18 cents a share as a result of the translation of foreign currencies compared with a loss last year of 10 cents a share.

For the nine months, he said, earnings were increased by 49 cents a share. "Of which," he said, "only 4 cents related to exchange rate changes since the beginning of the year."

The total order backlog at September 30 amounted to

International

£5,200m, compared with \$4,600m a year ago.

EIF-Aquitaine boost
Société Nationale EIF-Aquitaine, the French state-controlled oil company, has posted sales of 23,000 tonnes (about £2,800m) for the first nine months of this year, up by 15.8 per cent from the year earlier total of 19,900 tonnes.

EIF-Aquitaine gave the following figures for sales of its main subsidiaries: Aquitaine Company of Canada 750m francs against 675m; Société Métallurgique Le Nickel (jointly owned by EIF-Aquitaine and Inceval) 1,000m francs against 842m; Ato-Chimie 2,500m francs against 2,000m; Sanofi 1,200m francs against 1,100m.

Gulf and Western
Gulf and Western Industries of the United States says that it has agreed to sell its citrus and

cattle operations in Florida to a group of individual buyers for about \$44m (about £25.8m) in cash.

The sale is due to close early next year and will involve a total of 58,000 acres of citrus groves, improved and unimproved pastureland and 6,700 head of beef cattle in east and south central Florida. The transaction includes all of the citrus and cattle operations of the company's consumer and agriculture products group.

Ennia insurance issue
Randa NV, a Dutch group of insurance companies has announced plans to float a £100m (about £21.7m) bond loan due 1978-87 at a 7.75 per cent coupon. The price of the issue will be announced on November 16 and the subscription period will be closed on November 18. It was announced by the syndicate comprising Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank, Abn-Amro Bank, Nederland, Nederlandse Middestandsbank, Pierson, Holding in Pierson, Slavenburg's Bank and Van der Meer, all of whom are in the Netherlands.

Another record seems likely this year from Brown Shipley Holdings, the merchant banking, insurance, leasing and investment group. As usual, it is not revealing exact figures. But it does say that profits for the half-year to September 30 showed a "marked increase", and profits for the full year should compare favourably with those for 1976-77.

The were a best-ever £1.48m, after tax. The banking side's results show a material improvement, and the insurance section continued to make progress. The interim dividend rises from 5.39p to 6.00p gross and the board intends to pay a maximum total for the year.

Up jump shares in Abrasives: Bid talks on

Talks are on at Abrasives International which might lead to a bid. Just before the news prompted a suspension of the shares, they jumped from 18p to 22p giving a capitalization of £540,000.

This is the Solihull-based maker of descaling decumulating and metal finishing machines which was the scene of a family clash.

Mr Colin Ashworth, a big shareholder, the son of the group's founder, and brother of the chairman, called a meeting in August in an attempt to remove the existing directors and replace them with himself and three others. The board won with a heavy majority.

At the time, Mr Stewart Ashworth, chairman, said that profits for the year to December would be about £80,000.

Ship sale may put Common Bros back into black at end of year

By Alison Mitchell
Toosed on the troubled waters of its own profit and loss account, shipping group Common Brothers, sailed into the red in the year to June 30 last with a pre-tax loss of £564,000 against a previous profit of £1.1m.

But the sale of newspaper carrier AC Crosbie, since the year end, will result in a £1m overall improvement in the current period, according to Sir Rupert Speir, chairman.

Over the past few months, the share price of the Newcastle-based company has proved to be as volatile as the profits.

The shadow of the two major holders, Sir Rupert Speir and Sir John Carter, has prompted much speculative buying and a subsequent increase in the price.

But City forecasts of a firm loss and to dividend this time round cut almost 50p off the shares in recent weeks. Yesterday they closed 2p firmer at 190p.

Last year the group's four product tankers, operating in a particularly difficult market, covered 1.2 million tons of cargo and made some contribution towards depreciation.

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Ship sale may put Common Bros back into black at end of year

By Alison Mitchell
Toosed on the troubled waters of its own profit and loss account, shipping group Common Brothers, sailed into the red in the year to June 30 last with a pre-tax loss of £564,000 against a previous profit of £1.1m.

But the sale of newspaper carrier AC Crosbie, since the year end, will result in a £1m overall improvement in the current period, according to Sir Rupert Speir, chairman.

Over the past few months, the share price of the Newcastle-based company has proved to be as volatile as the profits.

The shadow of the two major holders, Sir Rupert Speir and Sir John Carter, has prompted much speculative buying and a subsequent increase in the price.

But City forecasts of a firm loss and to dividend this time round cut almost 50p off the shares in recent weeks. Yesterday they closed 2p firmer at 190p.

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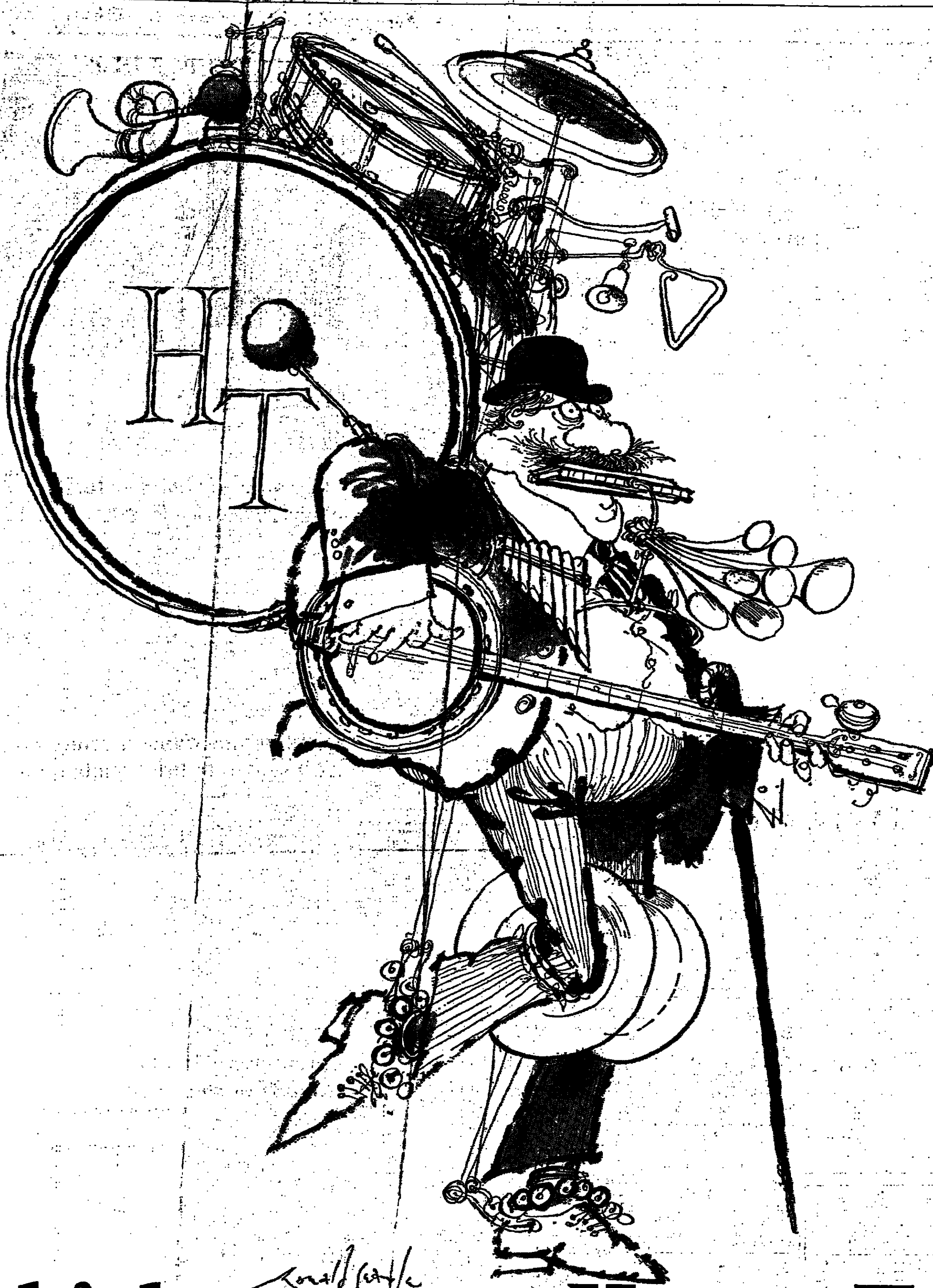
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Is this how you see Hanson Trust?

It's an easy trap.

But ask yourself this—could one man run a multi-million pound international public company? Could one man really be responsible for the management of over 40 different companies?

Could one man be completely authoritative on industrial activities as varied as brickmaking and meat processing?

To call Hanson Trust a one man band is to misunderstand fundamentally the philosophy that has made Hanson Trust the remarkably successful company it is.

No strings attached

What has set Hanson Trust apart is our specific policy of investing in basic markets through companies which have management potential and sound assets. We then give management the freedom they need (apart from rigid financial control) to

produce the kind of earnings we look for. Thus each Hanson Trust company controls its own performance. There are men at the head of Hanson Trust companies, not puppets.

A blueprint for success

In following the policy of developing good management, Hanson Trust has laid a solid foundation for growth. In fact, so many people have had their attention diverted by Hanson Trust's acquisitions, they may be unaware that our organic growth has been sustained and makes an increasing contribution to profits. This is a direct and continuing result of the Hanson Trust philosophy of making the most of its people as well as its other assets. And because we are committed to growth through managerial excellence, we are not about to relinquish the hard won positions our companies have achieved. Indeed, we have never bought companies to sell because we

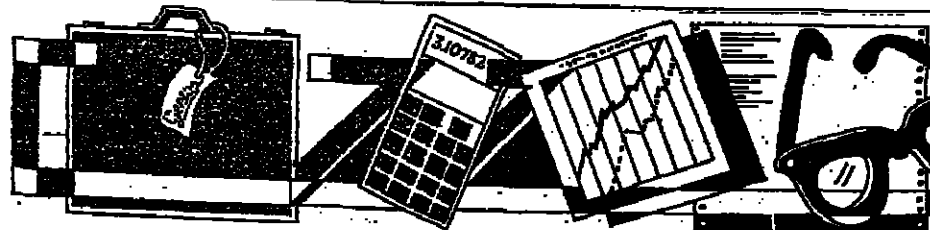
firmly believe that to be a cynical and destructive policy which has emasculated more than its fair share of sound management teams.

You can't argue with facts

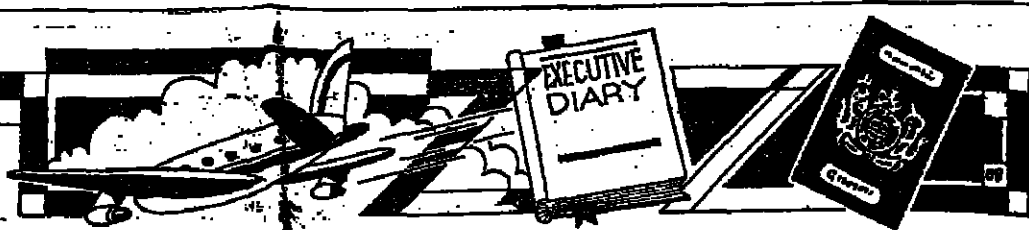
There have been a great many different opinions about Hanson Trust. But the facts remain that, while the argument continues, Hanson Trust also continues to achieve good quality earnings through excellent management. And what is more, it is a broad based management which means that, although we may blow our own trumpet from time to time, we are definitely not a one man band.

Hanson Trust

The industrial management company where people are as valued as assets.



£6,000 plus appointments



Kenya Airways

VACANCIES

Kenya Airways invites applications from qualified Boeing 707 Captains, Co-pilots, Engineers and Supervisors:

Captains and Co-Pilots

Captains must have at least 1,000 hr in command on aircraft whose all up weight exceeds 30,000lb with a minimum of 500 hr in command on B707 aircraft. Co-pilots must have at least 2,000 hr airline experience and have a current B707 rating.

Materials Provisioning Engineer

Must hold at least ten years' experience in aircraft spares provisioning which must include initial provisioning for new and used aircraft. Extensive experience of provisioning for B707-320 series aircraft is essential. Technical liaison experience in respect of Service Bulletins, Modifications and Heavy Maintenance of B707-320 aircraft is desirable.

Development Engineer—Airframe and Systems

Development Engineer—Powerplant and Systems

Must hold a University degree or a diploma in Engineering or hold 'A' and/or 'C' Licences on B707 and P & W engines. A minimum of 5 years' maintenance and overhaul experience including defect rectification and certification is required. Previous experience in development work is desirable.

Instrument/Electrical Supervisors

Must be an Avionic Engineer holding Electrical and/or Multi-Instruments Licence/Approval valid for Boeing 707-320 aircraft (Category B4 and 10.1.3). Preference will be given to candidates holding endorsement for Inertial Navigation Equipment. Successful applicants will have at least six years' experience in Line/Hangar Maintenance.

Remuneration for Captains ranges from UK£14,600 to UK£17,000 per annum and for Co-pilots from UK£7,900 to UK£10,000 per annum. Entry point will depend on qualifications and experience.

Remuneration for Engineers and Supervisors will be the equivalent of between UK£5,700 and UK£7,300 per annum. The starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience.

In addition there will be generous housing, transport and medical benefits. Employment will be on contract terms with a minimum of two years.

Applications giving full personal details and experience should be sent to: Personnel Manager, KENYA AIRWAYS LTD., P.O. Box 19002, Nairobi, Kenya, so as to reach him not later than 9 December 1977.

The successful applicants will reside in Nairobi, which is a modern city enjoying beautiful climate and with many sporting and social amenities.

Senior Oilfield Accountants

Home & Overseas Employment

Major Oilwell Drilling Contractor Company have career employment vacancies for applicants who are well qualified for Oil Field work in Home or Overseas locations.

Excellent earnings, good advancement prospects, insurance coverage, etc.

Send résumé plus passport type photograph, quoting Reference PB 228, to: Peter F. Brandon, Director—Recruitment.



Walter Judd Limited

(Recruitment Division)
1a Bow Lane London EC4M 9EJ
Tel: 01-236 4541

Assistant to the Technical Development Manager

A company eminent in the field of chemical and catalyst manufacturing wish to recruit an experienced Chemist or Chemical Engineer to assist in running their Technical Development Department. The current development programme includes new catalysts, chemicals and technologies for use in refineries, petrochemical plants and oil fields.

Involvement in these development projects will ideally suit someone experienced in the oil/petrochemical industry or anti-corrosion field. Apart from relevant experience, candidates should have the ability to progress projects from inception through to successful commercial trials.

Excellent terms and conditions of employment. Location: North London based.

Box 0015 K, The Times

MARKETING MANAGER

European Law Publisher

A rapidly expanding publishing company in the field of European Law requires an energetic and imaginative executive to develop and lead an effective marketing team. The successful male or female will have relevant experience and a proven marketing ability and will be willing to travel. Fluency in French and German or other European languages in addition to English, would be a valuable asset as would some knowledge of law.

The Marketing Manager, directly responsible to the Managing Director, will be based in London and the salary will reflect the importance of this key post.

Please ring for an interview:

Jennifer Roberts,
Thomson Publications Limited,
Elm House, Elm Street,
London WC1X 0BP. Tel. 01-278 2345, extn. 33

Bentalls

Founded in 1867

The Bentall group of independent department stores wish to appoint a

FURNISHING MERCHANDISE CONTROLLER

to take charge of its buying team of all furnishing departments, including furniture, carpets, soft furnishings, bedding, linens and lighting. The successful applicant must have extensive and successful buying and marketing experience in this field.

Commencing salary £8,000 per annum, with valuable fringe benefits, including company car, pension scheme and retirement benefits plan, staff discount and private medical insurance. Removal expenses to London area will be met.

Apply in confidence with details of age, training and experience, to:

L. E. ROWAN BENTALL, CHAIRMAN, BENTALLS LTD.
KINGSTON UPON THAMES, SURREY KT1 1TX.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Reorganisation of the activities of the Food Research Institute has created two vacancies in the Senior Principal Scientific Officer grade. Applications are invited for these two posts.

Head of the Chemistry Division

Applicants should have a broad qualification in Chemistry and distinction in a relevant research area with a biological or biochemical background since a significant element of biochemical research will be included in this Division. Physical and biophysical interests will be the responsibility of a parallel division to be created in the near future. Experience related to the interests of the Food Institute will be of especial value. The total staff of the Division will be approximately 40, including at least six Principal Scientific Officers and support staff divided into groups broadly concerned with Lipid Carbohydrate, Protein, Natural Product and Biochemistry in relation to food.

Head of the Nutrition and Food Quality Division

This is the first appointment to head a significant new development in the Food Research Institute. Applicants should have very broad experience in nutrition and a distinguished record of research in nutrition related to man. Food composition as well as physiological interests are required and the programme to be developed will be carried out in the closest possible collaboration with the ARC Dunn Nutrition Laboratory, Cambridge. The present food quality group, which is primarily concerned with sensory problems, will also be the responsibility of the person appointed and will form a section in the new Division concerned with aspects of the acceptability of foods.

The Institute is housed in virtually new laboratories in Norwich and takes a major role in the ARC research effort on food in the U.K. Further details are available in a document which outlines some of the proposed developments.

The salary range for these appointments is £8,335 to £10,006 per annum, including phase II pay supplement, and there is a non-contributory superannuation scheme.

Further particulars and application forms are available from the Secretary, ARC Food Research Institute, Colney Lane, Norwich NR4 7UA, to whom they should be returned by November 20, 1977.



Direct Works Manager

£9751-£10525 (inclusive of supplement)

This post, which is open to both men and women, will be responsible for the management of the Building Department which carries out repairs and maintenance to all municipal buildings including schools. Present expenditure estimates £4 million. It is essential that applicants have had considerable management experience in the construction industry in a senior capacity.

The Direct Works Manager will, through the Building Sub-Committee, be wholly responsible for the management of the Building Department which has a staff of 35 officers and 600 manual employees.

No new major construction work is being undertaken although it is envisaged that such work will be re-commenced when the necessary controls have been established. It will be an initial responsibility of the Direct Works Manager to assist in erecting such controls and submitting his recommendations on the structure and operational and committee reporting patterns which will provide the most efficient service for all Council Departments. The Direct Works Manager will be required to use costing and financial planning in conjunction with the Borough Treasurer who is charged by the Council to provide an accounting, costing and financial advisory scheme direct to the Direct Works Manager.

In addition to any duties as described, the Direct Works Manager will be required to undertake all other responsibilities related to the nature of the post as the Council may, from time to time, delegate and all duties will be subject to revision as the Council may determine.

This post is of Chief Officer status and accordingly, the Direct Works Manager will be required to contribute to the general management of the Authority.

Application forms and further details from the Establishment Officer, Town Hall, Barnsley S70 2TA.

Closing Date 25th November, 1977.
BARNSELY
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POST OF

DIRECTOR

from persons with appropriate professional qualifications and administrative and organisational experience.

The Association is controlled by a Council of members, whose policy is disseminated by a Central Office through the nine Regional Committees and offices throughout the United Kingdom.

Applicants will have a knowledge of the engineering industry, experience in dealing with Ministers, and Government departments, as well as commercial organisations and other bodies, and will be capable of assimilating present and future problems facing the industry.

The Director is the chief executive of the Association and serves on a number of government and industrial committees and is responsible to Council for the administration and financial supervision of the Association.

A salary will be negotiated reflecting the importance of this key post and the experience and qualifications of the applicant.

Applications giving details of background and career in confidence to:

The Director,
Engineering Industries Association,
Equitable House,
Lyon Road,
Barnrow HA1 2HG.

Applications must be received by 24.10.1977.

TECHNICAL MARKETING EXECUTIVE

to head up the new video marketing division of a leading consumer electronics manufacturer.

Applicants must have technical marketing experience in the related field of electronics. Superannuation scheme, company car and substantial salary for the right person.

Write in confidence to:
Box 0031 K, The Times.

SALES MANAGER/ESS

LUTON c. £6,500 + CAR

for

Ultrasonic Cleaning CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Ultrasonic Cleaning, a division of Thermoplastic Compounds Ltd., has announced a new machine for cleaning plastic crates, etc.

The response has been enormous. Our immediate need is to satisfy the home market, but the overseas demand must be realised.

The successful applicant will be aged 35, with a proven record of selling mechanical handling equipment to the foodstuff industry.

The challenge is to take an embryonic company into the international league.

Please write to: Ultrasonic Cleaning, 44 Elton Way, Luton Beds., LU1 1UU.

CHIEF MEDICAL & RESEARCH OFFICER

ROYAL HOSPITAL & HOME FOR INCURABLES

PUTNEY & BRIGHTON

The Board of Management of this old-established voluntary hospital and home wish to fill this new appointment in early 1978. The successful candidate will be responsible for the care of 255 severely handicapped patients, mainly in the younger age groups, including a recently completed separate school unit and a range of medical services supported by five specially employed Physiotherapists. Additionally, the appointee will be responsible for the establishment and direction of a Research Department.

Preference will be given to those concerned with the long-term care and rehabilitation of the disabled. Desired age, 30 to 35 years. A higher qualification is required. Commencing salary £15,000. Pension scheme interchangeable with N.H.S. Free life assurance.

Applications with C.V. and names of two referees to reach Col. M. F. Gordon-Wilson, Secretary to the Board of Management, R.H.H.I., West Hill, Putney, SW15 3SW, by 1.12.77 and from whom further particulars may be obtained.

SENIOR NAVAL ARCHITECT

NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE

Consulting Engineers engaged on U.K. and world wide ship building projects for wide range of ships of up to 5,000 GRT require Senior Naval Architect with drive and initiative, aged about 40, to take charge of the Marine Division, with experience in ship design, detail construction and machinery installation. Organisation and administrative capability essential.

QUALIFICATIONS: Design & Drawing Office experience with degree or equivalent and membership of R.I.N.A.

SALARY: Negotiable according to experience. Modern offices in centre of Newbury. Car provided. Pension Scheme and other benefits. Willingness to travel overseas essential.

Write or telephone for application form to:

Mr F. D. Hudson,
Director—Marine Department,
Shoosmith Howe Consultants Ltd.,
Tavern Centre Offices,
Newbury, Berkshire.
Tel.: Newbury 46969.

Appointments Vacant also on page 25

GENERAL VACANCIES

ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER/MANAGRESS

required E.C.C.

Knowledge bookkeeping, stock taking, and general office work. Salary £5,000-£5,500. Age 30+. 01-423 5474

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

A Research Assistant is required for approximately 6 months to replace a retiring member of staff. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design and construction of a new machine for cleaning plastic crates, etc. The successful candidate will be aged 35, with a proven record of selling mechanical handling equipment to the foodstuff industry. The challenge is to take an embryonic company into the international league. Please write to: Ultrasonic Cleaning, 44 Elton Way, Luton Beds., LU1 1UU.

SALES ASSISTANT

Modern furniture shop with experience. Salary £4,000-£4,500. Age 25+. 01-423 5474

EFFICIENT EDITOR

London. Working experience plus keen interest in news and current affairs. Salary £5,000-£5,500. Age 30+. 01-423 5474

EXPERIENCED QUANTITY SURVEYOR

London. Working experience plus keen interest in news and current affairs. Salary £5,000-£5,500. Age 30+. 01-423 5474

GENERAL VACANCIES

SUB-EDITOR FOR "DESIGN"

DESIGN MAGAZINE requires a sub-editor to take control of copy, proof, layout and production. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design and production of the magazine. The successful candidate will be aged 35, with a proven record of selling mechanical handling equipment to the foodstuff industry. The challenge is to take an embryonic company into the international league. Please write to: Ultrasonic Cleaning, 44 Elton Way, Luton Beds., LU1 1UU.

THE STARTING SALARY WILL BE

£4,000-£4,500. Age 25+. 01-423 5474

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Required with experience in all aspects of large commercial interiors, particularly hotels. Please write with brief details to Mrs. P. Mulvey, Copy Editor, Design Associates Ltd., 9-11, Justice Way, Old Church Street, Chelsea, London, SW3.

AUSTRALIAN Broadcasting Commission

Applications for the position of Sub-Editor for the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design and production of the magazine. The successful candidate will be aged 35, with a proven record of selling mechanical handling equipment to the foodstuff industry. The challenge is to take an embryonic company into the international league. Please write to: Ultrasonic Cleaning, 44 Elton Way, Luton Beds., LU1 1UU.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

SOLICITORS

In St. James's seek a Chief Accountant for a very successful firm. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design and production of the magazine. The successful candidate will be aged 35, with a proven record of selling mechanical handling equipment to the foodstuff industry. The challenge is to take an embryonic company into the international league. Please write to: Ultrasonic Cleaning, 44 Elton Way, Luton Beds., LU1 1UU.

ROBIN ASSOC.

(Staff Office)
10 Dover St. W.1

OPENINGS 21.11.77 in the information industry. 01-423 5474

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Appointments

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061-834 1234

GENERAL VACANCIES

If you are looking

for an interesting and varied

job and can spare 3, 4 or even

days per week, you may be

able to find a very rewarding

opportunity in Retail Security in

Greater London and South East

England.

There are good career prospects

and training for both drivers and

non-drivers.

Please phone 01-423 5474 for

further details.

COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The British Medical Association

seeks an experienced and

dynamic person to fill the

post of Committee Executive

Officer. The successful

candidate will be responsible

for the day to day running

of the Committee and will

be required to attend

meetings of the Committee

and to act as a liaison

between the Committee and

the Association. The

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